embrace
THE MADNESS
NCAA 2018
FINAL FOUR
SAN ANTONIO
PJ WASHINGTON
SHAI GILGEOUS-ALEXANDER
KEVIN KNOX
HAMIDOU DIALLO
MEN'S BASKETBALL

JOHN CALIPARI BECAME THE FOURTH-FASTEST COACH TO WIN 700 ON-COURT GAMES ON NOV. 26, 2017. ONLY ADOLPH RUPP (836), JERRY TARKANIAN (876) AND ROY WILLIAMS (879) DID IT FASTER.

HEAD COACH
JOHN CALIPARI

LEADING A PLAYERS-FIRST PROGRAM

- SIX FINAL FOURS, FOUR AT UK
- 2012 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
- NCAA RECORD 38 WINS (2012 & 2015)
- 24 CONSECUTIVE 20-WIN SEASONS
- FIRST NCAA DIVISION I COACH WITH AT LEAST FIVE REGULAR-SEASON CONFERENCE TITLES AT THREE DIFFERENT SCHOOLS
- 30 FIRST-ROUND DRAFT PICKS, INCLUDING 24 AT KENTUCKY
- 2015 NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

embrace
LEGACIES

2018 NCAA TOURNAMENT

First & Second Rounds • Boise, Idaho
March 15-17, 2018

embrace TRADITION

KENTUCKY

2017-18 WILDCATS

12 DAVIDSON (21-11, 13-5) vs. 5 KENTUCKY (24-10, 11-8)

Thursday, March 15 • 7:10 p.m. ET • Taco Bell Arena (12,644) • Boise, Idaho

#DCvsUK #MarchMadness • @KentuckyMBB

Starters Last Game

3 Hamidou Diallo

6-5 • 198 • Guard • Freshman

Queens, N.Y. | Putnam Science Academy

Logging 10.0 points and 3.5 rebounds a game | Scored in double figures in 15 games | Top vertical on team at 44.5 inches | SEC Freshman of the Week on Dec. 18

4 Nick Richards

6-11 • 240 • Forward • Freshman

Kingston, Jamaica | The Patrick School

Recorded 25 points and 15 rebounds vs. Fort Wayne | Averaging 5.4 points and 4.6 rebounds | Leads the team with a .615 field-goal percentage

5 Kevin Knox

6-9 • 215 • Forward • Freshman

Tampa, Fla. | Tampa Catholic

SEC Co-Freshman of the Year | First Team All-SEC | Leading UK with 15.6 points points per game | SEC All-Tournament Team | Scored 10-plus in 11 straight games

22 Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

6-6 • 180 • Guard • Freshman

Hamilton, Ontario | Hamilton Heights

Second Team All-SEC | SEC Tournament MVP | Leads team in assists (171) and steals (54) | Scored in double figures in 24 games, including 18 of last 23

25 PJ Washington

6-7 • 236 • Forward • Freshman

Dallas | Findlay Prep

Averaging 10.6 points and 5.5 rebounds per game | Logging 12.7 points and 6.3 rebounds over the last nine games | Scored in double figures in 20 games

Need to Know

- Kentucky is making its NCAA-leading 57th NCAA Tournament appearance
- The Wildcats were selected as the No. 5 seed in the South Region. The Wildcats will play Davidson, the No. 12 seed, on Thursday, in Boise, Idaho
- Kentucky is 46-10 in tournament openers and has won 24 of its last 25 first-round tournament games. UK owns a 124-50 record all-time in NCAA action, with its .712 winning percentage the fifth best in NCAA history
- UK won its 31st SEC Tournament title last week, its fourth straight and sixth in nine seasons under John Calipari
- Calipari moved past Tubby Smith for the third-most wins in UK history with a victory at home vs. Mississippi State. He's behind only Adolph Rupp (876) and Joe B. Hall (297) for wins in school history and now has 273 wins
- Kevin Knox was named the Co-SEC Player of the Year and a First Team All-SEC member by the league's coaches. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was a second-team selection

Last Time Out

- Kentucky captured its 31st SEC Tournament title and fourth in a row with a 77-72 victory over Tennessee in St. Louis
- UK avenged its two regular-season losses to the Volunteers, who tied for the regular-season SEC crown
- Shai Gilgeous-Alexander capped his MVP weekend with 29 points, a career-high-tying seven rebounds and three assists in the win
- Kevin Knox, who made the SEC All-Tournament Team, chipped in with 18 points
- Wenyen Gabriel, the third Wildcat on the SEC All-Tournament Team, finished the weekend 11 of 15 from behind the arc
- Kentucky pulled out in front by 17 points in the first half but Tennessee rallied and eventually took the lead
- Trailing 62-61, UK went on a 7-0 run to take a 68-62 lead and never trailed again
- Kentucky held Tennessee to 37.1 percent from the field

The Basics

Series Breakdown

Overall - UK leads 1-0

In NCAA Tournament - UK leads 1-0

Calipari vs. DC - 0-0

McKillop vs. UK - 0-0

Current UK Streak - Won 1

John Calipari	Bob McKillop
Overall Record: 718-203*	Overall Record: 554-339
Record at UK: 273-63	Record at DC: 554-339
Overall Seasons: 26th	Overall Seasons: 29th
At UK: Ninth	Seasons at DC: 29th

*on-court record

By the Numbers

2,261	UK all-time wins, NCAA leader
.868	Perentage of scoring by the Wildcats' freshmen
57	NCAA leader in all-time NCAA tourney appearances
6	SEC Tournament titles under Coach Cal

Tale of the Tape

UK	STAT	DC
76.7	Points PG	76.4
70.3	Opp. Points PG	67.6
38.6	Rebounds PG	32.8
13.4	Assists PG	16.8
4.9	Blocks PG	2.0
5.6	Steals PG	4.8
.470	FG Pct.	.483
.361	3-Pt FG Pct.	.391
.697	FT Pct.	.797
.406	Opp. FG Pct.	.437
.299	Opp. 3-Pt FG Pct.	.352

LEADERS

Points Per Game
UK - Kevin Knox (15.6)
DC - Peyton Aldridge (21.5)
Rebounds Per Game
UK - Jarred Vanderbilt (7.9)
DC - Peyton Aldridge (7.8)
Assists Per Game
UK - Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (5.0)
DC - Jon Gudmundsson (5.1)
Steals Per Game
UK - Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (1.6)
DC - Jon Gudmundsson (1.4)
Blocks Per Game
UK - Wenyen Gabriel (1.1)
DC - Will Magarity (0.6)
3-Pointers
UK - Kevin Knox (56)
DC - Peyton Aldridge (76)
Field-Goal Percentage
UK - Nick Richards (.615)
DC - Will Magarity (.542)
Free-Throw Percentage
UK - Quade Green (.820)
DC - KiShawn Pritchett (.917)
3-Point Field-Goal Percentage
UK - Wenyen Gabriel (.398)
DC - Rusty Reigel (.509)

SCHEDULE

OVERALL: 24-10 | SEC: 10-8

Home: 16-2 | Away: 4-6 | Neutral: 4-2

October

Fri.	*27*	*^THOMAS MORE*	*SEC*	*W, 103-61*
Mon.	*30*	*^MOREHEAD STATE[1]*	*-*	*W, 92-67*

November

Fri.	*3*	*^CENTRE COLLEGE*	*SEC*	*W, 106-63*
Fri.	10	UTAH VALLEY	SEC	W, 73-63
Sun.	12	VERMONT	ESPN	W, 73-69
Tues.	14	#4/3 Kansas[2]	ESPN	L, 65-61
Fri.	17	ETSU[3]	SEC	W, 78-61
Mon.	20	TROY[3]	SEC	W, 70-62
Wed.	22	FORT WAYNE[3]	SEC	W, 86-67
Sun.	26	UIC[3]	SEC	W, 107-73

December

Sat.	2	HARVARD	ESPN	W, 79-70
Sat.	9	Monmouth[4]	ESPNU	W, 93-76
Sat.	16	RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	ESPN2	W, 93-86
Sat.	23	UCLA[5]	CBS	L, 83-75
Fri.	29	RV/RV LOUISVILLE	CBS	W, 90-61
Sun.	31	GEORGIA*	ESPN	W, 66-61

January

Wed.	3	at LSU*	SEC	W, 74-71
Sat.	6	at #23/22 Tennessee*	SEC	L, 76-65
Tue.	9	vs. RV/RV TEXAS A&M*	ESPN	W, 74-73
Sat.	13	at Vanderbilt*	ESPN	W, 74-67
Tue.	16	at South Carolina*	ESPN	L, 76-68
Sat.	20	RV/RV FLORIDA*	ESPN	L, 66-64
Tue.	23	MISSISSIPPI STATE*	ESPN	W, 78-65
Sat.	27	at #7/7 West Virginia[6]	ESPN	W, 83-76
Tue.	30	VANDERBILT*	ESPN	W, 83-81[OT]

February

Sat.	3	at Missouri*	CBS	L, 69-60
Tue.	6	#15/14 TENNESSEE*	ESPN	L, 61-59
Sat.	10	at Texas A&M*	ESPN	L, 85-74
Wed.	14	at #10/11 Auburn*	ESPN2	L, 76-66
Sat.	17	RV/RV ALABAMA*	CBS	W, 81-71
Tue.	20	at RV/RV Arkansas*	ESPN	W, 87-72
Sat.	24	RV/NR MISSOURI*	ESPN	W, 87-66
Wed.	28	OLE MISS*	ESPN2	W, 96-78

March

Sat.	3	at RV/RV Florida*	CBS	L, 80-67
Fri.	9	vs. Georgia[7]	ESPN	W, 62-49
Sat.	10	vs. Alabama[7]	ESPN	W, 86-63
Sun.	11	vs. #13/12 Tennessee[7]	ESPN	W, 77-72
Thur.	15	vs. RV/RV Davidson[8]	CBS	7:10 p.m.

*All times Eastern | *SEC confernece game | HOME GAMES IN CAPS ^Exhibition | [1]Kentucky Cares Classic (Rupp Arena | Lexington, Ky.) | [2]Champions Classic (United Center | Chicago) | [3]Adolph Rupp Classic (Rupp Arena | Lexington, Ky.) | [4]Citi Hoops Classic (Madison Square Garden | New York) | [5]CBS Sports Classic (Smoothie King Arena | New Orleans) | [6]SEC/Big 12 Challenge (WVU Coliseum | Morgantown, W.Va.) | [7]SEC Tournament (Scottrade Center | St. Louis) | [8]NCAA First and Second Rounds (Taco Bell Arena | Boise, Idaho)*

Broadcast Information

TV — CBS SPORTS

Brian Anderson, play-by-play
Chris Webber, analyst
Lisa Byington, sideline

UK SPORTS NETWORK

Tom Leach, play-by-play
Mike Pratt, analyst

SATELLITE RADIO — SiriusXM

Sirius channel 138 | XM channel 202 | Internet channel 963

TV CHART

0 GUARD

Quade Green
6-0 | 180 | Freshman
Philadelphia | Neumann-Goretti
@Q_Green1
@q_boogi

1 FORWARD

Sacha Killeya-Jones
6-10 | 221 | Sophomore
Chapel Hill, N.C. | Virginia Episcopal
@SKJ
@the_skj

2 FOWARD

Jarred Vanderbilt
6-9 | 214 | Freshman
Houston | Victory Prep
@JVando
@jvando_

3 GUARD

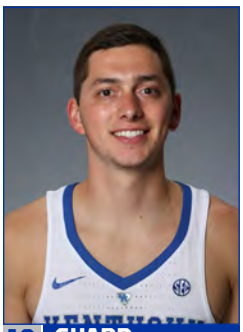
Hamidou Diallo
6-5 | 198 | RS-Freshman
Queens, N.Y. |Putnam Science Acad.
@hamidoudiallo
@hami.diallo

4 FORWARD

Nick Richards
6-11 | 240 | Freshman
Kingston, Jamaica | The Patrick School
@iamnickrichards
@nickrichards_

5 FORWARD

Kevin Knox
6-9 | 215 | Freshman
Tampa, Fla. | Tampa Catholic
@KevKnox
@kknox_23

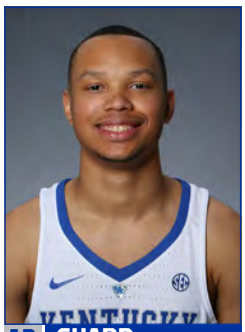


10 GUARD

Jonny David
6-2 | 183 | Junior
Pittsburgh | Mt. Lebanon
@JonnyDavid
@jdavid010

12 GUARD

Brad Calipari
6-0 | 176 | Sophomore
Franklin Lakes, N.J. | MacDuffie School
@bradcalipari
@brad.calipari



13 GUARD

Jemarl Baker
6-4 | 182 | Freshman
Menifee, Calif. | Eleanor Roosevelt
@jemarlbakerjr
@_jeyb3

14 FORWARD

Tai Wynyard
6-10 | 250 | RS-Sophomore
Auckland, New Zealand | Rangitoto College
@taiwynyard
@taiwynyard

22 GUARD

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander
6-6 | 180 | Freshman
Hamilton, Canada | Hamilton Heights
@shaigalex
@sav_shai2

25 FORWARD

PJ Washington
6-7 | 236 | Freshman
Dallas | Findlay Prep
@PJWashington
@pj_washington

30 GUARD

Dillon Pulliam
6-3 | 195 | RS-Junior
Cynthiana, Ky. | Transylvania Univ.
@dillonpulliam30
@dillon_pulliam

32 FORWARD

Wenyen Gabriel
6-9 | 205 | Sophomore
Manchester, N.H. | Wilbraham & Monson Acad.
@WenyenGabriel
@wenyengabriel

JOHN CALIPARI

Head Coach
Ninth season at UK
@UKCoachCalipari
@UKCoachCalipari

KENNY PAYNE

Assoc. Head Coach
Eighth season at UK
Fourth season as associate HC

TONY BARBEE

Assistant Coach
Fourth season at UK
Third season as assistant

JOEL JUSTUS

Assistant Coach
Fourth season at UK
Second season as assistant

JOHN ROBIC

Special Asstistant
Ninth season at UK
Second season as special asst.

Pronunciation Guide

JEMARL Baker	(Jamal)
HAMIDOU DIALLO	(HA-muh-dew) (dee-AH-low)
Brad/John CALIPARI	(cal-uh-PEAR-ee)
WENYEN Gabriel	(WHEN-yen)
SHAI GILGEOUS-Alexander	(shay) (GILL-juss)
QUADE Green	(KWAH-day)
SACHA KILLEYA-Jones	(SAH-shuh) (kuh-LEE-uh)
TAI WYNYARD	(tie) (WIN-yard)

Roster

ALPHABETICAL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (Previous School)
13	Jemarl Baker	G	6-4	182	Fr.	Menifee, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt)
12	Brad Calipari	G	6-0	176	So.	Franklin Lakes, N.J. (MacDuffie School)
10	Jonny David	G	6-2	183	Jr.	Pittsburgh (Mt. Lebanon)
3	Hamidou Diallo	G	6-5	198	RS Fr.	Queens, N.Y. (Putnam Science Academy)
32	Wenyen Gabriel	F	6-9	205	So.	Manchester, N.H. (Wilbraham & Monson Academy)
22	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	G	6-6	180	Fr.	Hamilton, Canada (Hamilton Heights)
0	Quade Green	G	6-0	180	Fr.	Philadelphia (Neumann-Goretti)
1	Sacha Killeya-Jones	F	6-10	221	So.	Chapel Hill, N.C. (Virginia Episcopal)
5	Kevin Knox	F	6-9	215	Fr.	Tampa, Fla. (Tampa Catholic)
30	Dillon Pulliam	G	6-3	195	RS Jr.	Cynthiana, Ky. (Transylvania University)
4	Nick Richards	F	6-11	240	Fr.	Kingston, Jamaica (The Patrick School)
2	Jarred Vanderbilt	F	6-9	214	Fr.	Houston (Victory Prep Academy)
25	PJ Washington	F	6-7	236	Fr.	Dallas (Findlay Prep)
14	Tai Wynyard	F	6-10	250	RS So.	Auckland, New Zealand (Rangitoto College)

Head Coach: John Calipari (Clarion, 1982)
Associate Head Coach: Kenny Payne (Louisville, 2003)
Assistant Coaches: Tony Barbee (UMass, 1993)
Joel Justus (UNC Wilmington, 2004)
Special Asst. to the Head Coach: John Robic (Denison, 1986)

Assoc. AD/Basketball Operations: Chris Woolard (UCLA, 1997)
Director of Basketball Admin.: Will Barton (Kentucky, 2013)
Strength Coach: Robert Harris (Kentucky State, 2009)
Athletic Trainer: Chris Simmons (Memphis, 2002)
Equipment Manager: Mark Evans (Kentucky, 2013)

POLLS, STATS, MEDIA INFO

Weekly Media Schedule

12 Mon	13 Tues	14 Wed	15 Thur	16 Fri	17 Sat	18 Sun
SEC teleconference: 11:15 a.m. ET Calipari Radio Show: 6 p.m. ET	Practice: 2:30 p.m. Travel day	Interviews: 2:45 p.m. MT Practice: 3:25-4:05 p.m. MT open to media	vs. Davidson | 5:10 p.m. MT	Interviews: 3:10 p.m. MT Practice: Closed to media	vs. Buffalo/Arizona | TBD	TBD

UK Media Relations Staff

Eric Lindsey
Associate Media Relations Director
Cell - 859.619.0944
Email - eric.lindsey@uky.edu

Deb Moore
Associate Media Relations Director
Cell - 859.559.5781
Email - deb.moore@uky.edu

Jake Most
Assistant Media Relations Director
Cell - 516.996.3229
Email - jake.most@uky.edu

Media Information

CREDENTIAL REQUESTS

Requests for single-game credentials should be made as far in advance as possible and no later than five days prior to game day online at sportssystems.com/Kentucky.

CREDENTIAL CRITERIA

The University of Kentucky's decision to issue credentials to a media outlet for the purposes of covering a UK basketball home or away event is determined by a variety of factors. They include the following:

- Amount of coverage given to Kentucky throughout the season
- Intention/ability to cover all 22 sports at Kentucky
- Distribution/size of publication: free, subscription, sale on newsstands, website traffic, etc.
- Radio or TV station program format and size of audience
- Length of existence of the publication, amount of original copy generated, number of full-time employees of the publication and the journalistic experience of the reporter(s)
- Attendance at Kentucky media sessions, including Olympic sport opportunities
- Space availability
- Professionalism, which includes but is not limited to conduct at games, press conferences, practices, on social media, etc.

The University of Kentucky has the right to revoke credentials under its own discretion.

GENERAL INTERVIEW POLICIES

All interviews with University of Kentucky basketball players or staff members must be arranged through the Media Relations office. Media should never contact a player or coach directly.

The Wildcat Coal Lodge, dormitories, team locker rooms and other team quarters are private team areas. Media members are not permitted in these areas unless accompanied by appropriate university personnel.

PRACTICE/PRESS CONFERENCES

Other than announced exceptions, UK basketball practices are closed to the media. UK will accept requests to attend practice. All requests must be made by 10 a.m. on the day of the practice. In cases in which practices are open to the media, no cell phones are allowed in the practice facility.

Player interviews are conducted prior to practices the day before a game and will be available to all UK media in the Memorial Coliseum media room. UK will accept requests for player interviews, but they must be submitted 24 hours prior to the scheduled availability.

Coach John Calipari or an assistant coach will meet with members of the media immediately following player interviews in the Memorial Coliseum media room.

Gameday shoot-arounds are closed to the media.

TELEPHONE PLAYER INTERVIEWS

Telephone interviews are available to the media on a call-back basis. Individual player and coach telephone numbers will not be given to members of the media.

Players are instructed not to conduct interviews when contacted directly by telephone. The UK Media Relations office will arrange for telephone interviews at a time most convenient for the student-athlete.

Other special requests are handled on a case-by-case basis.

POSTGAME INTERVIEWS

Following each game, there is a 20-minute cooling-off period, during which time the players shower and dress. Approximately 10 minutes after the game ends, Coach Calipari conducts his postgame press conference while a player is taken to the UK Sports Network.

Following Coach Calipari's press conference and the cooling-off period, selected UK players are brought to the media interview room.

The Polls

Associated Press Top 25
March 12

1. Virginia (65)
2. Villanova
3. Xavier
4. Kansas
5. Michigan State
6. Cincinnati
7. Michigan
8. Gonzaga
9. Duke
10. North Carolina
11. Purdue
12. Arizona
13. Tennessee
14. Texas Tech
15. West Virginia
16. Wichita State
17. Ohio State
18. Kentucky
19. Auburn
20. Clemson
21. Houston
22. Miami (Fla.)
23. Florida
24. Nevada
25. Saint Mary's

Receiving Votes: Arkansas, Loyloa-Chicago, Rhode Island, TCU, Providence, New Mexico State, Butler, St. Bonaventure, USC, Kansas State, Buffalo, UCLA, Seton Hall, Creighton, South Dakota State, Murray State, San Diego State, Middle Tennessee State, Virginia Tech, Davidson, Missouri

USA Today Coaches Poll
March 12

1. Virginia (32)
2. Villanova
3. Kansas
4. Xavier
5. Michigan State
6. Duke
7. Michigan
8. Gonzaga
9. North Carolina
10. Cincinnati
11. Purdue
12. Tennessee
13. Texas Tech
14. West Virginia
15. Arizona
16. Wichita State
17. Ohio State
18. Clemson
19. Houston
20. Kentucky
21. Auburn
22. Rhode Island
23. Saint Mary's
24. Florida
25. Miami (Fla).
25. Nevada

Receiving Votes: Arkansas, Creighton, Loyloa-Chicago, Providence, TCU, Middle Tennessee State, NC State, Virginia Tech, New Mexico State, Florida State, Kansas State, Buffalo, Seton Hall, St. Bonaventure, South Dakota State, Butler, Davidson, San Diego State, Texas A&M

Kentucky Week by Week

Preseason	5/4
Nov. 13	7/4
Nov. 20	8/8
Nov. 27	7/7
Dec. 4	8/7
Dec. 11	8/5
Dec. 18	7/6
Dec. 25	16/15
Jan. 1	17/14
Jan. 8	21/20
Jan. 15	18/16
Jan. 22	RV/RV
Jan. 29	21/22
Feb. 5	24/24
Feb. 12	RV/RV
Feb. 19	RV/RV
Feb. 26	23/25
March 5	RV/RV
March 12	18/20
Postseason	

SEC Standings

Team	SEC Record	Overall Record	Games Back
Auburn	13-5 (.722)	25-7 (.781)	0.0
Tennessee	13-5 (.722)	25-8 (.758)	0.0
Florida	11-7 (.611)	20-12 (.625)	2.0
Kentucky	**10-8 (.556)**	**24-10 (.706)**	**3.0**
Missouri	10-8 (.556)	20-12 (.625)	3.0
Arkansas	10-8 (.556)	23-11 (.677)	3.0
Mississippi State	9-9 (.500)	22-11 (.667)	4.0
Texas A&M	9-9 (.500)	20-12 (.625)	4.0
Alabama	8-10 (.444)	19-15 (.559)	5.0
LSU	8-10 (.444)	17-14 (.548)	5.0
South Carolina	7-11 (.389)	17-16 (.515)	6.0
Georgia	7-11 (.389)	18-15 (.545)	6.0
Vanderbilt	6-12 (.333)	12-20 (.375)	7.0
Ole Miss	5-13 (.278)	12-20 (.375)	8.0

UK in the Rankings

Team Rankings (Through March 11)

Category	Stat	SEC (NCAA)
Scoring	76.7	4th (89th)
Scoring Defense	70.3	9th (126th)
Scoring Margin	+6.4	4th (74th)
Free Throw %	.697	10th (242nd)
Field Goal %	.470	3rd (59th)
Field Goal % Def.	.406	3rd (22nd)
3-Point FG %	.361	6th (124th)
3-Point FG % Def.	.299	1st (5th)
Rebounding Off.	38.6	3rd (35th)
Rebounding Def.	33.0	3rd (N/A)
Rebounding Margin	+4.7	3rd (48th)
Blocks Per Game	4.9	5th (28th)
Assists Per Game	13.4	8th (188th)
Steals Per Game	5.6	9th (243rd)
Turnover Margin	-1.1	10th (265th)
Assist/TO Ratio	1.0	9th (199th)
Off. Rebs. Per Game	12.1	6th (46th)
Def. Rebs. Per Game	26.5	4th (87th)
Def. Rebound %	.688	11th (N/A)
Off. Rebound %	.362	1st (N/A)
3-Point FG Per Game	5.4	14th (333rd)

Individual Rankings

Category/Player	Stat	SEC (NCAA)
Assist-TO Ratio/G.-Alexander	1.9	9th (152nd)
Assists/Gilgeous-Alexander	5.0	4th (69th)
FT. Pct./Gilgeous-Alexander	.808	6th (171st)
Minutes/Gilgeous-Alexander	33.3	5th
Minutes/Knox	32.3	7th
Points/Knox	15.6	10th
Steals/Gilgeous-Alexander	1.6	4th (118th)

Upcoming in the SEC

March 14-15

Contest	Time	TV Network
NCAA Tournament		
Thursday, March 15		
Wright State vs. Tennessee	12:40 p.m.	truTV
Davidson vs. Kentucky	***7:10 p.m.***	***CBS***
Alabama vs. Virginia Tech	9:20 p.m.	TNT
UCLA/St. Bonaventure vs. Florida	9:57 p.m.	truTV
Friday, March 16		
Providence vs. Texas A&M	12:15 p.m.	CBS
Butler vs. Arkansas	3:10 p.m.	truTV
Charleston vs. Auburn	7:27 p.m.	truTV
Florida State vs. Missouri	9:50 p.m.	TBS
NIT Tournament		
Wednesday, March 14		
Louisiana at LSU	7 p.m.	ESPN3
Nebraska at Mississippi State	9 p.m.	ESPN3

All times Eastern

NOTES

Honoring the Cats

Hamidou Diallo
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Dec. 18)
- John R. Wooden Award Preseason Top 50
- Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List
- Oscar Robertson Trophy Preseason Watch List
- Preseason All-SEC First Team (Media)
- Preseason All-SEC Second Team (Coaches)
- Jerry West Award Preseason Watch List
- Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook Preseason All-American Fourth Team

Wenyen Gabriel
- SEC All-Tournament Team

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander
- SEC Tournament MVP
- SEC All-Tournament Team
- All-SEC Second Team (Coaches)
- SEC All-Freshman Team (Coaches)
- USBWA District IV Team
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Jan. 15)
- Bluegrass Sports Commission MVP of Kentucky-Louisville game
- NetScouts International Player of the Week on Jan. 2

Kevin Knox
- SEC All-Tournament Team
- Co-SEC Freshman of the Year (Coaches)
- All-SEC First Team (Coaches)
- SEC All-Freshman Team (Coaches)
- USBWA District IV Team
- Naismith Trophy Midseason Watch List
- Julius Erving Award Midseason Final 10
- USBWA Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week (Jan. 30)
- USBWA Wayman Tisdale National Freshman of the Week (Jan. 30)
- Citizen Naismith Player of the Week (Jan. 30)
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Jan. 29)
- Lute Olson Award Midseason Watch List
- John R. Wooden Award Preseason Top 50
- CNaismith Trophy Preseason Watch List
- Oscar Robertson Trophy Preseason Watch List
- Preseason All-SEC First Team (Coaches)
- Preseason All-SEC Second Team (Media)
- Julius Erving Award Preseason Watch List

Dillon Pulliam
- SEC Community Service Team

Nick Richards
- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award Preseason Watch List

Jarred Vanderbilt
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Feb. 24)

PJ Washington
- Karl Malone Award Preseason Watch List

Wildcats Claim 31st SEC Tournament Title, Sixth Under Coach Cal

Through preseason hype and midseason struggle, all John Calipari has ever wanted is a team of players playing for each other and peaking when it counts. After Kentucky delivered a complete performance to claim the Southeastern Conference Tournament championship, he's got it.

The fourth-seeded Wildcats (24-10) completed their march through St. Louis on Sunday, taking down No. 2 seed Tennessee (25-8) in a 77-72 victory. The win gave UK its 31st SEC Tournament championship and fourth in a row while avenging two regular-season defeats at the hands of the Volunteers.

UK had a primarily blue-clad Scottrade Center crowd rolling in the early going, answering an opening Tennessee basket with a Kevin Knox 3-pointer. Soon after, UK's lead ballooned to 10-3 and eventually 33-16 before the league co-champion Vols closed to within five points by the end of the first half with a 15-3 run. It was game on from there.

The Vols picked up where they left off to start the second half, with Admiral Schofield – who had 22 points for the game – continuing his barrage with a 3-pointer to give Tennessee a 41-38 lead. But as they have all tournament, the Cats had the answer.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored five straight points to reclaim the lead and soon after found Knox for a 3-pointer to key a 14-2 run. Tennessee wouldn't go quietly and even took back the lead at one point, but the Volunteers couldn't pry the title away from the Cats nor SEC Tournament Most Valuable Player honors from Gilgeous-Alexander, who had 29 points, seven rebounds and three assists.

Gilgeous-Alexander piled up gaudy averages of 21 points and 6.7 assists in three UK wins to claim the big award, but the darling of the weekend in St. Louis was Wenyen Gabriel. Gabriel joined Gilgeous-Alexander and Knox on the all-tournament team, backing up a semifinal performance of 23 points on seven made 3s by posting 12 points, six rebounds, three steals and two blocks on Sunday. His biggest play came with just over four minutes left, when he rebounded a missed free throw by Knox and scored the go-ahead put-back.

The next time down, Gabriel was one-upped by his fellow sophomore. When Gabriel's corner 3 rimmed out, the miss caromed perfectly to Sacha Killeya-Jones as he flew toward the hoop. In one motion, Killeya-Jones dropped the hammer with a ferocious dunk to give UK a four-point lead.

The daggers would come from Killeya-Jones as well, as he came up with two big blocks in the final minutes to help close out the game. Seven made free throws in eight attempts in the final 34 seconds finished the job.

NOTABLES:
- Not only was it UK's fourth SEC Tournament title in a row, it was the Wildcats' sixth in nine seasons under Calipari. For Calipari, it was his 15th conference tournament championship in 19 appearances in title games
- It's the third time UK has won at least four consecutive SEC Tournament championships (the Wildcats won seven in a row from 1944-50 and four straight from 1992-95)
- Kentucky has an all-time record of 133-25 in the SEC Tournament and has won 12 in a row
- Calipari improved to 22-3 in the SEC Tournament and has been in the finals eight times during his nine years
- Kentucky limited Tennessee to 37.1 percent from the field. UK is now 167-14 under Calipari when keeping the opponent under 40 percent from the field, including 3-0 in the SEC Tournament
- UK made 24 of 51 shots from behind the arc in the tournament, a 47.1-percent clip
- Gilgeous-Alexander was one off his career-high point total and tied his career high in rebounds
- Gilgeous-Alexander, Gabriel and Knox were named to the SEC All-Tournament Team. Gilgeous-Alexander averaged a team-best 21.0 points in St. Louis, Knox tallied 14.7 per game, and Gabriel averaged 13.7 on 11-of-15 3-point shooting, including a school SEC Tournament record 7-for-7 afternoon in the semifinals

Kentucky in the NCAA Tournament

Kentucky is making its nation-leading 57th all-time appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 2018 (58 on-court appearances as the 1988 appearance was vacated).

The Wildcats were selected as the No. 5 seed in the South Region. The Wildcats will play Davidson, the No. 12 seed in the region, on Thursday, in Boise, Idaho.

This is the second time in program history the Wildcats have earned a No. 5 seed in the annual event. The only previous time was in 2000 when the Wildcats played in Cleveland, defeating St. Bonaventure 85-80 in overtime in the first round before falling to fourth-seeded Syracuse in the second round, 52-50.

UK is 46-10 in tournament openers and has won 23 of its last 24 opening-round tournament games. UK owns a 124-50 record all-time in NCAA action, with its .712 winning percentage the fifth best in NCAA history. This is the fifth straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament for the Wildcats.

Kentucky owns a 1-0 record all-time against Davidson in the NCAA Tournament, defeating the Wildcats 75-55 in the opening round in 1986 in Charlotte. UK was a No. 1 seed that season and advanced to the regional finals before falling to LSU. Davidson is coming off a 58-57 upset of top-seeded Rhode Island in the finals of the Atlantic 10 Tournament on Sunday.

In addition to receiving the league's automatic bid with the win, the Wildcats advanced to their 14th NCAA Tournament and ninth under head coach Bob McKillop. Davidson is 21-11 on the year and has won eight of its last nine games. The Wildcats are averaging 76.4 points per game this season and are paced by senior forward Peyton Aldridge, who is averaging 21.5 points per game with 7.8 rebounds per game.

With a win over Davidson, Kentucky would face the winner between No. 4 seed Arizona (27-7) and No. 13 seed Buffalo (26-8). Kentucky and Arizona have met just once in the NCAA Tournament in the 1997 championship game with Arizona earning a 84-79 overtime win. UK and Buffalo have never played in the tournament, but Kentucky owns a 1-0 advantage all-time over the Bulls, having defeated UB 71-52 on Nov. 16, 2014.

Kentucky is 26-6 (.813) in NCAA Tournament games under the direction of Calipari. Calipari is 51-17 (.750) as a head coach in NCAA Tournament games.

UK Leads in NCAA Tournament Wins

UK leads the nation in all-time NCAA Tournament victories with 124. It also leads the country in wins in the tournament since 2010, when John Calipari first led the Wildcats into the Big Dance, entering the 2018 tournament:

26 - Kentucky
21 - North Carolina
20 - Duke
19 - Kansas
18 - Wisconsin
16 - Louisville, Michigan State, Florida
15 - Butler, Gonzaga, Syracuse

Knox Wins SEC Co-Freshman of the Year; Gilgeous-Alexander Also Honored

Freshmen Kevin Knox and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Kentucky's two leading scorers and most consistent performers, were honored by the Southeastern Conference's league coaches last week. Knox was named, alongside Alabama's Collin Sexton, as the SEC Freshman of the Year, and a first-team selection, while Gilgeous-Alexander was a second-team pick by the 14 head coaches. The duo was among eight players on the All-SEC Freshman Team.

All 14 conference head coaches voted on the eight-man first- and second-team All-SEC squads. Ties were not broken.

Knox was joined on the first team by Jaylen Barford (Arkansas), Chris Chiozza (Florida), Yante Maten (Georgia), Kassius Robertson (Missouri), Chris Silva (South Carolina), Grant Williams (Tennessee) and Tyler Davis (Texas A&M).

Gilgeous-Alexander was a second-team member alongside Sexton, Daryl Macon (Arkansas), Bryce Brown (Auburn), Jared Harper (Auburn), Quinndary Weatherspoon (Mississippi State), Admiral Schofield (Tennessee) and Jeff Roberson (Vanderbilt).

Knox is the ninth Wildcat to win SEC Freshman of the Year, as voted on by the league's coaches, in Kentucky's storied history. He is the eighth player in the last nine seasons under John Calipari's direction to claim the distinction. With the freshman duo capturing league honors, Calipari has now coached 23 players who have earned All-SEC accolades. At least one player has been named to the All-SEC Freshman Team, including 24 total, in all nine seasons under Calipari, and in eight of the nine seasons multiple players have been tabbed to the squad.

In addition to UK's two freshmen, Sexton, Daniel Gafford (Arkansas), Tremont Waters (LSU), Nick Weatherspoon (Mississippi State), Jontay Porter (Missouri) and TJ Stars (Texas A&M) made up the All-SEC Freshman Team.

2017-18 Lead-Deficit Comparison

Opponent	Biggest Lead	Biggest Deficit	Biggest Run	Changes	Ties	Led	Trailed	Result
UTAH VALLEY	14 (2nd)	12 (2nd)	18-0	4	5	20:04	17:08	W, 73-63
VERMONT	14 (2nd)	2 (1st)	10-0	5	2	37:03	1:06	W, 73-69
vs. Kansas	2 (2nd)	11 (1st)	6-0	12	10	4:10	31:00	L, 65-61
ETSU	22 (2nd)	10 (1st)	16-0	3	0	25:10	14:26	W, 78-61
TROY	21 (2nd)	None	8-0	0	2	39:14	0:00	W, 70-62
FORT WAYNE	30 (2nd)	4 (1st)	15-0	8	2	33:16	4:14	W, 86-67
UIC	38 (2nd)	1 (1st)	10-0	2	0	39:30	0:20	W, 107-73
HARVARD	20 (2nd)	None	13-0	0	2	38:59	0:00	W, 79-70
vs. Monmouth	29 (2nd)	1 (1st)	13-0	2	0	39:28	0:18	W, 93-76
VIRGNIA TECH	8 (2nd)	8 (1st)	10-0	11	8	19:43	15:32	W, 93-86
vs. UCLA	8 (1st)	12 (2nd)	13-0	8	3	8:41	28:23	L, 83-75
LOUISVILLE	32 (2nd)	6 (1st)	12-0	4	4	30:44	6:18	W, 90-61
GEORGIA	7 (2nd)	8 (2nd)	8-0	5	4	6:48	28:08	W, 66-61
at LSU	7 (1st)	7 (2nd)	9-0	12	5	25:18	12:04	W, 74-71
at Tennessee	9 (1st)	11 (2nd)	8-0	5	7	19:17	13:58	L, 76-65
TEXAS A&M	6 (1st)	6 (2nd)	7-0	12	14	12:57	21:16	W, 74-73
at Vanderbilt	9 (1st)	4 (1st)	11-0	3	3	32:43	2:17	W, 74-67
at South Carolina	14 (2nd)	9 (1st)	12-0	4	7	19:34	16:14	L, 76-68
FLORIDA	8 (1st)	8 (2nd)	7-0	4	12	14:05	20:42	L, 66-64
MISSISSIPPI STATE	13 (2nd)	6 (1st)	7-0	8	10	24:36	10:29	W, 78-65
at West Virginia	7 (2nd)	17 (2nd)	11-0	6	5	8:16	28:08	W, 83-76
VANDERBILT	5 (1st)	14 (2nd)	7-0	7	5	12:47	30:12	W, 83-81^{OT}
at Missouri	3 (1st)	14 (2nd)	6-0	5	4	5:01	33:27	L, 69-60
TENNESSEE	3 (1st)	4 (2nd)	7-0	17	13	13:06	16:04	L, 61-59
at Texas A&M	4 (1st)	23 (2nd)	8-0	9	7	8:02	26:30	L, 85-74
at Auburn	6 (1st)	10 (2nd)	7-0	7	1	13:40	24:41	L, 76-66
ALABAMA	11 (2nd)	3 (1st)	6-0	15	8	31:12	4:25	W, 81-71
at Arkansas	17 (2nd)	11 (1st)	10-0	9	12	14:41	18:39	W, 87-72
MISSOURI	24 (2nd)	3 (1st)	11-0	3	5	30:39	3:53	W, 87-66
OLE MISS	20 (2nd)	2 (1st)	10-0	7	2	36:56	1:12	W, 96-78
at Florida	1 (1st)	23 (2nd)	7-0	2	2	0:57	37:56	L, 80-67
vs. Georgia	17 (2nd)	2 (1st)	11-0	3	4	36:40	0:34	W, 62-49
vs. Alabama	23 (2nd)	2 (1st)	8-0	8	1	35:21	2:14	W, 86-63
vs. Tennessee	17 (1st)	3 (2nd)	7-0	7	5	35:30	2:11	W, 77-72
BIGGEST/MOST	**38**	**23**	**18-0**	**17**	**14**	**39:30**	**37:56**	
TOTALS						**774:18**	**418:59**	

After earning All-Southeastern Conference honors, Gilgeous-Alexander and Knox were also among 10 players selected for the United States Basketball Writers Association's District IV Team. The District IV Team includes players from the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

Joining UK's freshmen on the list are Bryce Brown (Auburn), Chris Chiozza (Florida), Jared Harper (Auburn), Nick King (Middle Tennessee State), Yante Maten (Georgia), Collin Sexton (Alabama), Jonathan Stark (Murray State) and Grant Williams (Tennessee).

The Wildcats have had 19 players named to the USBWA All-District team in the nine seasons under the direction of head coach John Calipari. Fifteen of those players were freshmen, including Devin Booker (2015), DeMarcus Cousins (2010), Anthony Davis (2012), De'Aaron Fox (2017), Terrence Jones (2011), Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (2012), Brandon Knight (2011), Malik Monk (2017), Jamal Murray (2016), Nerlens Noel (2013), Julius Randle (2014), Karl-Anthony Towns (2015) and John Wall (2010).

Wildcats Playing Their Best at the Right Time

Just over a month ago, things looked bleak for the Wildcats.

Kentucky was in the midst of a four-game losing streak. Fans were nervous, UK's historically young team was dealing with adversity and pressure it never had experienced before, and there were some in the media wondering if the Wildcats were going to make the NCAA Tournament.

Boy, does that seem like a distant memory now.

After enduring one of the toughest stretches in recent memory, Kentucky is playing its best basketball of the season just in time for the postseason -- which is always the goal for John Calipari's teams and something they've managed to do in just about every season under Coach Cal.

UK has won seven of its last eight games since that losing streak with five victories over NCAA Tournament teams and an SEC Tournament championship.

Over the last eight games, the Wildcats are averaging 80.4 points per game and scored at least 77 in five of the games, which is above Kentucky's season average. UK was averaging 75.6 points in the first 26 games. Six players are averaging 8.8 points or more during this stretch with Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Kevin Knox leading the way at 16.9 points per game.

UK's offensive uptick has been highlighted by a 48.4 percent field-goal clip and 45.1 percent shooting from behind the arc. In the previous 26 games, Kentucky was shooting 46.6 percent from the field and 32.9 percent from 3.

The Wildcats have made an average of 7.5 made 3-pointers a game during the stretch, up from 4.8 prior to. Kentucky has gotten to the free-throw line plenty as well, making 17.9 free throws per game on 73.3-percent shooting after making free throws 68.6 percent of the time in the first 26 games.

Perhaps the biggest difference in Kentucky late-season stellar play is its ability to share the basketball and cut down on the turnovers. Over the last eight games UK has a plus-1.3 assist-to-turnover ratio after going through most of the season with more turnovers than assists.

Gilgeous-Alexander UK's 'Best Player?'

One of the least heralded players of Kentucky's 2018 signing class, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander not only evolved into perhaps the gem of the class -- he may be the most valuable player on the team.

Since moving into the starting lineup 19 games ago, he's averaging 15.7 points, 5.6 assists and 4.3 rebounds in 36.4 minutes of action. Capped by his 29 points in the championship game, he averaged a team-best 21.0 points, 6.7 assists and 5.0 rebounds while shooting 55.3 percent from the floor en route to Most Valuable Player honors at the Southeastern Conference Tournament.

Other notable performances this season included a 30-point game in a 14-point second-half comeback vs. Vanderbilt at home. The native of Canada scored or assisted on 32 of UK's final 56 points in that come-from-behind win, including scoring eight of UK's final 10 points of the second half when the Wildcats were staring at a loss -- even hitting the two clutch free throws with just over two seconds left and Kentucky down two.

Now fully entrenched as the starter at point guard, Gilgeous-Alexander started the season as a spark off the bench. He forced himself into the starting lineup after back-to-back games of 20 points or more vs. Louisville and Georgia. Those back-to-back games marked the first time a player has scored 20 or more points off the bench since Deron Feldhaus turned the trick Jan. 21 and 25, 1992. Gilgeous-Alexander nearly made it three in a row with 18 points in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in the Wildcats' first road victory of the season.

Said John Calipari after the back-to-back 20-point performances vs. Louisville and Georgia: "He's our best player."

And Gilgeous-Alexander is far from a score-first point guard. He's proven to be an adept passer, leading the team in assists with a 5.0 average, ranked fourth in the SEC (through games on March 11). He's led the team in assists in a team-best 26 games. He is the 13th freshman in program history to amass more than 100 assists during his freshman season. He currently sits in third on the all-time freshman assists list with 171. He needs 20 to pass Marquis Teague for second. John Wall owns the record with 241 assists in 2009-10.

Defensively, Gilgeous-Alexander is a menace, averaging 1.6 steals per game. Under Calipari, John Wall's 1.8 steals and 66 for the season are the most of any player. Gilgeous-Alexander currently is third among all Southeastern Conference players with 54 steals (through games on March 11). He's moved into third place on UK's single-season freshman steals list and needs 13 more to move past Wall and into second place.

Knox Among the Best Freshmen in the Nation

Kevin Knox re-asserted himself into the national discussion as one of the nation's best freshmen after a 34-point performance at then-No. 7/7 West Virginia.

The U.S. Basketball Writers of America named him both the Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week and the Wayman Tisdale National Freshman of the

NOTES

CATS IN THE NBA

At the beginning of the 2017-18 season, 27 former Wildcats were on an opening-day roster, more than any other school in the country. The following listing includes any player who has appeared in an NBA game this season.

Name	Team
Bam Adebayo	Miami Heat
Eric Bledsoe	Milwaukee Bucks
Devin Booker	Phoenix Suns
Willie Cauley-Stein	Sacramento Kings
DeMarcus Cousins	New Orleans Pelicans
Anthony Davis	New Orleans Pelicans
De'Aaron Fox	Sacramento Kings
Andrew Harrison	Memphis Grizzlies
Dakari Johnson	Oklahoma City Thunder
Enes Kanter	New York Knicks
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	Charlotte Hornets
Brandon Knight	Phoenix Suns
Skal Labissiere	Sacramento Kings
DeAndre Liggins	New Orleans Pelicans
Trey Lyles	Denver Nuggets
Jodie Meeks	Washington Wizards
Darius Miller	New Orleans Pelicans
Malik Monk	Charlotte Hornets
Jamal Murray	Denver Nuggets
Nerlens Noel	Dallas Mavericks
Patrick Patterson	Oklahoma City Thunder
Alex Poythress	Indiana Pacers
Julius Randle	Los Angeles Lakers
Rajon Rondo	Sacramento Kings
Karl-Anthony Towns	Minnesota Timberwolves
Tyler Ulis	Phoenix Suns
John Wall	Washington Wizards
James Young	Philadelphia 76ers

Several former Wildcats are among the NBA league leaders in the major statistical categories. Stats are through March 11. Former UK players are in ***BOLD.***

Points Per Game
1. James Harden (Rockets) - 31.1
2. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 28.1
T8. Devin Booker (Suns) - 25.3
10. DeMarcus Cousins (Pelicans) - 25.2

Rebounds Per Game
1. Andre Drummond (Pistons) 15.8
3. DeMarcus Cousins (Pelicans) - 12.9
4. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 12.2
7. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 11.1
10. Enes Kanter (Knicks) - 10.8

Assists Per Game
1. Russell Westbrook (Thunder) - 10.1
T5. Rajon Rondo (Pelicans) - 7.6

Steals Per Game
1. Victor Oladipo (Pacers) - 2.22
3. Eric Bledsoe (Bucks) - 2.03
12. DeMarcus Cousins (Pelicans) - 1.65

Blocks Per Game
1. Kristaps Porzingis (Knicks) - 2.40
2. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 2.28
T9. DeMarcus Cousins (Pelicans) - 1.58
13. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 1.46

Field-Goal Percentage
1. Clint Capela (Rockets) - .652
5. Enes Kanter (Knicks) - .605
9. Julius Randle (Lakers) - .559
13. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timeberwolves) - .545
16. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - .537

Free-Throw Percentage
1. JJ Redick (76ers) - .927
6. Jamal Murray (Nuggets) - .914
13. Devin Booker (Suns) - .875

3-Point Field-Goal Percentage
1. Joe Ingles (Jazz) - .449
16. Darius Miller (Pelicans) - .421

Double-Doubles
1. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 56
T5. DeMarcus Cousins (Pelicans) - 38
T5. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 38
12. Enes Kanter (Knicks) - 32

Week and the Atlanta Tipoff Club tabbed him its Citizen Naismith National Player of the Week honors on Jan. 31. On Feb. 8, he was one of 10 finalists for the Julius Erving Award, presented annually by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to the nation's top small forward, and he's on the Citizen Naismith Trophy late-season list as a national player of the year candidate.

Knox is the second freshman this season to earn both USBWA honors in the same week, joining Oklahoma's Trae Young, who did it in December. It was also his first SEC honor.

Knox is the first UK freshman to earn Tisdale Freshman of the Week honors since Tyler Ulis and Karl-Anthony Towns claimed the honor during the historic 2014-15 season. Malik Monk was tabbed the Oscar Robertson National Player of Week following his 47-point performance against North Carolina last season.

Knox averaged 26.5 points and 6.5 rebounds per game in wins over Mississippi State and at No. 7/7 West Virginia that week. He had 19 points, six boards and a pair of steals against the Bulldogs. In the epic come-from-behind win over West Virginia, Knox poured in 34 points and added seven rebounds. The scoring output was the most since De'Aaron Fox had 39 in a win over UCLA in the Sweet 16 in the 2017 NCAA Tournament. The 34 points tied Malik Monk's freshman school scoring record on the road (Monk scored 34 at Ole Miss to open SEC play a season ago). They're also the most by a UK freshman in a nonconference true road game.

Overall, Knox leads the Wildcats in scoring at 15.6 points per game. He's reached double-figure scoring in 28 games this season and has a team-high nine games of 20 or more points, while also leading the team in rebounding on eight occasions. He is second on the team with 183 rebounds on the year for an average of 5.3 per game. Knox has also put together a team-high-tying two double-doubles on the year and has drained a team-high 56 3-pointers.

He's scored in double figures in 11 consecutive games, becoming the first player to achieve that feat this season and first since De'Aaron Fox concluded the 2016-17 season scoring in double figures in 12 straight. He also notched 20 or more points in three straight games vs. Arkansas, Missouri and Ole Miss, the first player to do that since Monk did it in November and December of 2016.

In games in which UK has won this season, he is averaging 16.5 points, 5.6 rebounds and 1.5 assists per game.

Freshman Production Better Than Ever

Coach John Calipari's youngest team during his tenure and the youngest among all of college basketball this season is carrying the bulk of the load in 2017-18.

With no other choice than to produce after mass losses from the 2016-17 team, this group of freshmen is being relied upon more than any other freshman class under Calipari. The freshmen are producing 81.5 percent of the minutes, 86.8 percent of the scoring load and 72.3 percent of the rebounding numbers.

The Wildcats' top five scorers are all freshmen and six of the top seven rebounders are first-year players.

Outside of blocks and steals per game, this version of the young Cats leads in every other category in average production from the freshmen.

Here's a look at UK's freshman production vs. other freshman classes under Calipari:

Year	PPG	RPG	APG	SPG	BPG	Year	PPG	RPG	APG	SPG	BPG
2017-18	66.6	27.9	12.5	4.5	3.2	2012-13	40.3	22.9	5.3	3.6	5.9
2016-17	54.5	20.0	8.2	3.3	3.4	2011-12	41.3	22.2	8.3	3.4	6.3
2015-16	38.6	16.5	5.9	2.7	2.7	2010-11	45.6	15.1	7.4	2.4	2.3
2014-15	33.4	15.2	6.6	2.3	2.8	2009-10	46.3	20.7	10.7	4.7	3.9
2013-14	61.5	26.4	9.6	3.2	2.5						

The success of the freshmen has been a collective effort, but each player has enjoyed a prolific game as well, showcasing Coach Calipari's sentiment that as the team succeeds, so do the individuals.

- Hamidou Diallo - SEC Freshman of the Week after scoring 23 points vs. Virginia Tech
- Shai Gilgeous-Alexander - SEC Tournament MVP with 29 points and seven boards in the championship game
- Quade Green - Game-winning layup in overtime vs. Vanderbilt, had 12 points in the game
- Kevin Knox - National Player of the Week after scoring 37 points at No. 7 West Virginia
- Nick Richards - Had 25 points and 15 rebounds in win over Fort Wayne
- Jarred Vanderbilt - SEC Freshman of the Week after logging first double-double vs. Missouri with 11 points and 15 boards

Historically Young

It seems like with every John Calipari team youth is the story, but this year's team is on a whole new level.

Zero seniors. Eight freshmen. Nearly 93 percent of last season's scoring and almost 77 percent of the rebounding gone. And the leading returner, Wenyen Gabriel, averaged just 4.6 points and 4.8 rebounds a year ago.

The Wildcats have just 0.18 years of experience in the KenPom.com experience rankings. Not only is that the least experience of any team this season, it's the most inexperienced team since KenPom.com began tracking its experience rankings in 2006-07.

For another perspective, only Mississippi Valley State (386) and Pittsburgh (648) return fewer minutes from last season than the Wildcats (890), according to a survey sent to all Division I men's basketball schools.

Even for a Calipari-coached team, this team is extremely young. Entering the 2017-18 season, the average age of the Wildcats' roster was just 19.43 years old. In an updated survey, no other team is younger than the Cats after Chattanooga added a player to its roster at the semester.

Although all of Calipari's teams have been young, they've all had some sort of veteran presence. The 2010 team with John Wall and DeMarcus Cousins had Patrick Patterson. The 2012 national title squad featured Darius Miller. The unforgettable 2015 team that flirted with an undefeated season had Willie Cauley-Stein and Alex Poythress.

In another survey, UK's lineup features more underclassmen without a senior on the roster than any school in the country. The Wildcats are one of just a handful of schools without any seniors on the roster and are tied for the fewest amount of up-

Measurables

Top Wing Span
1. Nick Richards - 7'5"
2. PJ Washington - 7'3"
3. Sacha Killeya-Jones - 7'2"
4. Jarred Vanderbilt - 7'1"
T5. Hamido Diallo - 7'0.25"
T5. Kevin Knox - 7'0.25"

Maximum Vertical
1. Hamidou Diallo - 44.5"
2. PJ Washington - 43.0"
3. Jarred Vanderbilt - 39.5"
T4. Wenyen Gabriel - 37.5"
T4. Kevin Knox - 37.5"

Top Hand Width
1. Sacha Killeya-Jones - 11.0"
2. Nick Richards - 10.5"
3. PJ Washington - 10.25"
T4. Jarred Vanderbilt - 10.0"
T4. Tai Wynyard -10.0"

Top Reach
1. Nick Richards - 9'2.50"
2. Sacha Killeya-Jones - 9'2"
T3. Wenyen Gabriel - 9'0"
T3. Kevin Knox - 9'0"
T3. Jarred Vanderbilt - 9'0"
T3. Tai Wynyard - 9'0"

No-Step Vertical
1. Hamidou Diallo - 36.0"
2. PJ Washington - 35.5"
3. Jarred Vanderbilt - 34.0"
4. Wenyen Gabriel - 32.5"
5. Nick Richards - 32.0"

3/4 Court Sprint
1. Hamidou Diallo - 3.10
2. Kevin Knox - 3.22
3. Jarred Vanderbilt - 3.28
4. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander - 3.29
5. Wenyen Gabriel - 3.32

perclassmen (juniors and seniors) with just two. It's worth noting those upperclassmen are walk-ons.

Wildcats' Schedule Ranked No. 4 in Country

Kentucky's young team was put to the test this season with a formidable nonconference schedule and an even harder league slate.

Kentucky finished the season with the eighth-toughest nonconference schedule in the country, according to the NCAA's RPI report. Throw in the much-improved Southeastern Conference, which is considered by some this year to be the best league in the country from top to bottom, and UK's strength of schedule was No. 4 in the country.

Twenty of Kentucky's 2017-18 opponents made a postseason tournament, which includes eight SEC teams in the NCAA Tournament and four nonconference opponents in the Big Dance. Eleven of UK's foes finished the season ranked in the top 50 of the RPI.

Kentucky's nonconference schedule saw the Wildcats play in premier venues such as the United Center in Chicago (vs. Kansas) and Madison Square Garden in New York (vs. Monmouth), took them to a Big Blue Nation favorite in New Orleans (vs. UCLA), and featured a difficult trip to Morgantown, West Virginia, to play the West Virginia Mountaineers in January.

The Cal-Zone

John Calipari isn't shy in voicing his aversion to zone defenses. The way he explains it, it doesn't hold players personally accountable like man-to-man defense does and it isn't the defense his players will have to play if they are fortunate enough to make it to the NBA.

But, as Calipari has conceded at times this season, he also has a responsibility to win, and the best way to do that with this team given its length may just be to use a zone from time to time.

According to Synergy Sports, UK has played zone defense on 17.6 percent of its defensive possessions this season, by far the most of the Calipari era at Kentucky. The 2013-14 team played zone 5.3 percent of the time, but no other Calipari team featured it more than 3.4 percent of the time.

Calipari is still primarily a man-to-man defensive coach and hasn't played as much zone recently as he did earlier in the season -- the Wildcats were at one point playing zone more than 20 percent of the time -- but the success of the zone has given the Wildcats a change-of-pace defense it can go to at times.

"The issue becomes I have a responsibility to teach these kids how to play pick-and-roll defense, how to stay in front of people, man-to-man," Calipari said early in the season. "I mean, from here on there is no more zone. I mean, they're going to have to learn. But I also have a responsibility to win, so I'll play as much as I have to, to win a game. ... Whatever this team needs, I'm going to have to do."

Tall Order Facing These Cats

John Calipari has said before that you can teach shooting, defense and effort, among other things, but you can't teach height and you can't teach length. This group of Wildcats has both.

The average wingspan of this Kentucky team is just over 6-foot-9. Take out walk-ons Jonny David and Dillon Pulliam and the average wingspan of the scholarship players increases to more than 6-10.

Seven players on the roster have a wingspan of 7 feet or more, making this is a potentially devastating shot-blocking team.

Just in terms of pure height, the Wildcats average better than 6-6 in height. According to kenpom.com, UK's average playing height of 78.9 inches is the fourth tallest in the country. Syracuse, San Jose State, and Duke are the only teams taller than the Cats. The Orange lead the country at 80.1.

No Fly Zone Behind the 3-Point Line

With all that Kentucky length, especially when the Wildcats go to the 2-3 zone, it's been difficult for opponents to get a clear look from behind the 3-point line.

Kentucky is holding opponents to just 29.7 percent from behind the arc, easily first in the Southeastern Conference and third overall in the country, through games on March 11.

Historically it ranks as the second-best mark in school history, behind only the historic 2014-15 team's 27.1-percent record. As a matter of fact, since the 3-point line was adopted during for the 1986-87 season, only the 2014-15 team held its opponents to less than 30 percent from long range.

Four-Game Skid an Anomaly for UK, Calipari

Despite Kentucky's four-game losing streak from Feb. 3-14, the Wildcats' NCAA Tournament prospects are still in very good shape with a strong résumé and more opportunities ahead in arguably the nation's best conference. But if there was a sense of uneasiness in and around Big Blue Nation, there's a reason why: The skid rarely happens at UK or under John Calipari.

UK's four-game losing streak was entering waters Kentucky and Calipari generally don't swim in, but they're worth pointing out for perspective of the success UK and Calipari have had:

- The four-game losing streak was the longest in Calipari's nine seasons at UK. As a matter of fact, prior to the four-game skid, UK had never lost more than two in a row under Calipari
- Calipari hadn't lost four in a row since dropping four straight games at Memphis to end the 2004-05 regular season. As a matter of fact, Calipari -- owner of the most single-season wins at UK, Memphis and UMass -- has only lost four or more games four times during his career (once at UK, once at Memphis and twice at UMass). His longest career losing streak is just five games, done twice at UMass. On the flipside, he's had 18 streaks in his career where his teams have won 10 or more consecutive games during the season, including winning 15 or more straight games nine times, 20 or more six times, 25 or more five times, and 30 or more one time
- Another example of UK's long and storied success, it was just the seventh streak of four or more losses for Kentucky since the 1927-28 season

Getting Back on Track, Perspective

One can point to a number of reasons for UK's four-game losing streak from Feb. 3-14. Areas the Wildcats were sound in for much of the season had fallen off during the stretch.

The good news is the body of work proves those things should return to the median -- and they did as Kentucky has won seven of eight since, including the Southeastern Conference Tournament. From a big-picture perspective, several numbers appear to be outliers in that stretch.

For one, after shooting the ball well for most of the season, UK made just 40.9 percent of its shots over the four-game stretch down from 47.6 percent in the previous 22 games. The Wildcats were also making only 22.2 percent of their shots from behind the 3-point line.

UK's Record vs. AP Ranked Opponents and as an AP Ranked Opponent Under Coach Cal

	Opponent Rank																										
Kentucky (RK)	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**RV**	**NR**	**TOTAL**
1	-	0-1	0-1	1-0	2-0	2-0	-	2-0	1-0	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	2-0	1-0	1-0	-	1-0	3-0	1-0	-	-	-	6-2	46-2	**69-7**
2	-	-	-	-	1-0	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	1-0	-	1-0	-	1-0	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4-0	22-0	**31-2**
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	17-0	**19-2**
4	-	0-1	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	1-0	6-2	**10-3**
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	8-0	**10-0**
6	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	1-0	1-0	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	6-0	**10-2**
7	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2-1	**2-2**
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	2-3	11-0	**14-4**
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3-1	**3-1**
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-3	4-1	**4-5**
11	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	0-1	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	2-0	-	-	-	-	6-1	**11-3**
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	1-1	**3-1**
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6-1	**6-1**
14	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-1	7-1	**8-3**
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	3-0	**5-0**
16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	4-1	**6-1**
17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-1	-	-	-	3-2	**4-3**
18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	1-1	4-2	**5-3**
19	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	**2-0**
20	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	3-1	**4-2**
21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	2-1	**3-1**
22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	5-1	**7-1**
23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	3-0	**3-1**
24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	**0-2**
25	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-1	**1-3**
RV	0-1	1-0	-	-	1-0	-	2-0	-	-	0-1	-	1-0	1-0	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			**6-3**
NR	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			**2-1**
																											Total	248-57
TOTAL	**1-2**	**1-2**	**0-2**	**3-3**	**4-1**	**2-1**	**4-1**	**3-0**	**1-2**	**1-2**	**1-1**	**4-0**	**5-0**	**1-1**	**1-1**	**4-0**	**3-0**	**1-2**	**1-1**	**1-1**	**4-0**	**3-0**	**1-2**	**1-1**	**1-0**		Total	**51-26**

NOTES

Tracking the Cats

Charges Drawn
- Wenyen Gabriel - 3
- Shai Gilgeous-Alexander - 2
- Quade Green - 2
- Nick Richards - 1

First Sub
- Wenyen Gabriel - 18
- Quade Green - 12
- Sacha Killeya-Jones - 11
- Shai Gilgeous-Alexander - 7
- Jarred Vanderbilt - 8
- PJ Washington - 5
- Tai Wynyard - 1

Shot-Clock Violations
- Forced by Kentucky - 18
- Forced by Opponent - 7

Traditional 3-Point Plays
- Kevin Knox - 12
- Shai Gilgeous-Alexander - 9
- Hamidou Diallo - 8
- PJ Washington - 8
- Wenyen Gabriel - 2
- Nick Richards - 2
- Sacha Killeya-Jones - 1
- Jarred Vanderbilt - 1

Clutch Free Throws

FT totals during a single-digit game with 5:00 to play or OT:

Player	FTs (Pct.)
Sacha Killeya-Jones	2-2 (1.000)
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	25-29 (.862)
Quade Green	16-19 (.842)
Kevin Knox	20-26 (.769)
PJ Washington	20-36 (.556)
Wenyen Gabriel	4-9 (.444)
Hamidou Diallo	3-11 (.273)
Kentucky	**90-132 (.682)**

The first 22 games that mark was a respectable 35.0 percent.

Missed shots lead to scoring droughts, and the Wildcats battled through one prolonged one in each of the four losses. In all four games, UK had to battle through five or more consecutive minutes in the game without a field goal. Generally speaking, that's a deep hole to dig out of.

But perhaps the inconsistent shooting can be attributed to the types of looks the Wildcats were getting. UK's assists per game dipped off to just 10.0 per game over the four losses -- and that's really inflated by 15 assists at Texas A&M. The other three games featured nine, seven and nine assists, respectively.

Or maybe it's the fact that Kentucky wasn't getting nearly as many easy transition baskets as it was earlier in the season. UK is averaging just 5.5 fastbreak points per game over the four-game stretch. Over the previous 22 games the Wildcats were averaging 9.5.

Whether it's one factor or the other or a combination of both, all appear to be outliers -- perhaps magnified by the quality of competition Kentucky faced in a difficult league that's expected to get as many as nine teams into the NCAA Tournament.

Consider the four opponents UK faced during the streak -- all of them made the 2018 NCAA Tournament field. As Alabama head coach Avery Johnson so eloquently put it after UK defeated the Crimson Tide to get back in the winning column: "They weren't against a YMCA team. They played Missouri, Tennessee, A&M, Auburn. Pretty good teams, right?" Right.

On top of all that, Kentucky and Calipari have been here before; maybe not to the degree of the consecutive losses, but they've endured February growing pains before and gone on to great endings. Consider the following teams:

- 2010-11 - Lost six games in the league and dropped four games in February. That team won the SEC Tournament title and ended up in the Final Four
- 2013-14 - Lost six games in the league, including four of the last seven regular-season games. That team put together one of the most memorable runs in the NCAA Tournament in school history and made it to the national championship game
- 2015-16 - Lost four games in a month's span late in the season but went on to win the SEC regular-season and tournament crowns
- 2017-18 - Lost four straight in February before rallying to win seven of eight games en route to UK's fourth straight SEC Tournament title

Bounce Back

The Wildcats don't lose very often during the John Calipari era, but when they do, they almost always bounce back. UK is 44-12 under Calipari following a loss.

The Wildcats have only lost back-to-back games 12 times during the Calipari era with three of those losses having come during a four-game losing streak from Feb. 3-14, 2018. That was the first four-game losing streak under Calipari.

Previously, the last time UK lost four games in a row was in February 2009, when the Wildcats dropped four straight games to end the regular season. It's the first time Calipari had lost four straight since the end of the 2004-05 season at Memphis.

Always Efficient

According to Ken Pomeroy's calculations on kenpom.com, UK's teams under John Calipari have consistently ranked among the most efficient teams in the country per possession.

Year	Offense (Rank)	Defense (Rank)	Overall
2018	116.4 (25)	96.0 (23)	18th
2017	119.1 (12)	91.4 (7)	4th
2016	120.4 (5)	98.0 (53)	6th
2015	119.3 (5)	86.5 (2)	1st
2014	117.6 (10)	96.9 (41)	11th
2013	108.8 (42)	99.1 (129)	42nd
2012	122.9 (2)	88.2 (9)	1st
2011	118.1 (7)	90.4 (15)	6th
2010	116.1 (15)	86.2 (6)	3rd

numbers through March 11

Scoring Droughts

A common occurrence for the Wildcats during their four-game skid from Feb. 3-14 was five-minute scoring droughts without a field goal. Kentucky had one drought in each of the those four games that essentially cost the Wildcats a win. The first three in that stretch were droughts that put UK in too deep of a hole to climb out of. The last, at Auburn, closed out the game and allowed the Tigers to pull away.

Kentucky has had 12 such games in which the team has failed to score a field goal at least once over a five-minute stretch. The Wildcats are 5-7 in such games with wins over Utah Valley, Troy, Georgia, Texas A&M and at No. 7/7 West Virginia. In addition to the four-game losing streak, UK also suffered droughts at Tennessee and in back-to-back games against Florida and over the final six minutes at South Carolina.

No surprise, during Kentucky's bounce-back four-game winning streak there were no such scoring droughts.

S-E-C! S-E-C! S-E-C!

Kentucky has the unquestionable reputation as the league's gold standard. Since the SEC's inception in 1932-33, the Wildcats have been the most dominant team in the league, recording a 982-278 mark (.779) in regular-season conference play. Only two other teams have won more than 700 regular-season SEC games (Alabama and Tennessee), and no other team has a better winning percentage.

- UK has averaged 11.6 wins and only 3.3 losses per season in 85 seasons in the SEC
- Kentucky has won 48 SEC titles and 31 SEC Tournament championships
- The Wildcats have won 16 of the last 26 SEC Tournament titles
- UK has won at least a share of five of the last nine SEC regular-season championships under head coach John Calipari
- Kentucky has played in the championship game of the SEC Tournament in eight of Calipari's nine seasons after advancing to the title game again in 2018
- The SEC was 11-5 in NCAA Tournament games in 2017 with three teams in the Elite Eight
- Nine SEC schools have recruiting classes that ranked in the top 40 of ESPN's 2017 national rankings. A quarter of all ESPN's top 100 players signed with SEC schools
- The SEC won the Big 12/SEC Challenge for the first time with a 6-4 margin in 2018
- Eight teams made the 2018 NCAA Tournament field, the second most of any league in the country and a new conference record

Cats Deliver the Knockout Punch

UK is 231-5 (.979) in the John Calipari era when leading by at least 10 points at any time in the contest.

When Kentucky failed to put away South Carolina on Jan. 16 after leading by as many as 14 points in the second half, it was the first time the Wildcats let a double-digit lead wind up in a loss since losing two such games in the 2015-16 campaign.

Kentucky also blew two double-digit leads during the 2012-13 season. Four of the five losses have been to conference opponents.

Perhaps most impressive of all is that 70.2 percent of games Calipari has coached in at Kentucky have produced 10-point leads at some point during the game for UK. The Wildcats have led by 10 points or more in a whopping 84.6 percent of Calipari's 273 career wins at Kentucky.

Three is Better Than Two

Kentucky and UNLV went back and forth all season long last year for the claim of having the longest active streak of consecutive games with a made 3-pointer. Fittingly, both schools reached a historic milestone -- 1,000 straight games -- within a few hours of each other.

UK just beat out the Runnin' Rebels by mere hours, becoming the first school ever to hit a 3-pointer in 1,000 straight games with a trey at Alabama on Feb. 11, 2017. Malik Monk, UK's leader in 3-point field goals last season, got the Wildcats to 1,000 straight games with a 3-pointer from the right wing with 15:26 to go in the first half. UNLV would match it later in the day.

Kentucky passed UNLV for the nation's longest active streak of consecutive games with a made 3-pointer in its final game of 2015-16. UK has now knocked down at least one 3-pointer in 1,047 consecutive games. UNLV has hit one in 1,040 straight, through games on March 11.

The Cats' last game without a made 3-pointer came against Seton Hall on Nov. 26, 1988 a "three-point" loss in the Great Alaska Shootout. The streak began on Nov. 28, 1998, in an 89-71 win vs. California. The Wildcats' record during the 1,047-game streak is 807-240.

Cats Not Counting on the Long Ball -- Until Late

There's an old expression in basketball that's been around since the 3-point line came into existence: Live by the 3, die by the 3. With as little as Kentucky has shot it from behind the arc this season, UK has done neither this season. Kentucky is currently taking the fewest number of 3-point shots in the John Calipari era.

As of games played on March 11, Kentucky is attempting a 3-point shot on just 26.2 percent of its total field-goal attempts, the lowest of the Calipari era. As a matter of fact, that's ranked 344th out of 351 teams in the country, according to KenPom.com.

UK's program record low for percentage of 3-point attempts is 13.7 percent in 1987-88, just the second year of existence for the 3-point shot. Only one other team (1988-89) had a rate less than 20 percent at 16.9 percent.

Kentucky's current rate is the lowest since Kentucky attempted a 3-pointer on 27.2 percent of its attempts during the 1995-96 season. That same team holds the program record for the best 3-point field-goal percent with a 39.7 rate.

Not only does UK shoot fewer 3-pointers than just about anyone else, the Wildcats rely on it less than any other team. Kentucky relies on just 21.3 percent of its points from 3-pointers, ranked 340th out of 351 teams, according to KenPom.com.

Having said all that, Kentucky has filled it up from behind the arc over the last seven games. The Wildcats have made seven or more 3-pointers in five of those games -- including a season-best 12 vs. Alabama in the Southeastern Conference Tournament -- and made 45.9

Points Per Possession

Game	Off. PPP	Def. PPP
UTAH VALLEY	1.03	0.89
VERMONT	1.09	1.03
vs. Kansas	0.87	0.93
ETSU	1.07	0.84
TROY	0.99	0.87
FORT WAYNE	1.23	0.96
UIC	1.32	0.90
HARVARD	1.08	0.96
vs. Monmouth	1.19	0.97
VIRGINIA TECH	1.22	1.13
vs. UCLA	1.04	1.15
LOUISVILLE	1.22	0.82
GEORGIA	0.97	0.90
at LSU	1.04	1.00
at Tennessee	0.97	1.13
TEXAS A&M	1.14	1.12
at Vanderbilt	1.17	1.06
at South Carolina	0.91	1.01
FLORIDA	0.90	0.93
MISSISSIPPI STATE	1.08	0.90
at West Virginia	1.26	1.15
VANDERBILT	1.11	1.08
at Missouri	0.86	0.99
TENNESSEE	0.92	0.95
at Texas A&M	1.00	1.15
at Auburn	0.93	1.07
ALABAMA	1.16	1.01
at Arkansas	1.24	1.03
MISSOURI	1.34	1.02
OLE MISS	1.22	0.99
at Florida	1.03	1.23
vs. Georgia	1.07	0.84
vs. Alabama	1.34	0.98
vs. Florida	1.24	1.16

Overall

Kentucky offensive high - 1.34 vs. Missouri, vs. Alabama
Kentucky offensive low - 0.86 at Missouri
Kentucky SEC offensive high - 1.34 vs. Missouri
Kentucky SEC offensive low - 0.86 at Missouri
Kentucky postseason high - 1.34 vs. Alabama
Kentucky postseason low - 1.07 vs. Georgia

Opponent offensive high - 1.23 at Florida
Opponent offensive low - 0.82 vs. Louisville
Opponent SEC offensive high - 1.23 at Florida
Opponent SEC offensive low - 0.90 vs. Georgia, Mississippi St.
Opponent postseason high - 1.16 vs. Tennessee
Opponent postseason low - 0.84 vs. Georgia

percent from behind the arc during that time frame.

Here's a look at UK's percentages of 3-point attempts and 3-point field-goal percentages in the Calipari era:

Year	Pct. of FG Atts. from 3	3-Point FG Pct.	Pct. of Points from 3s
2009-10:	.313	.331 (lowest)	.230
2010-11:	.324 (highest)	.397 (highest)	.296 (highest)
2011-12:	.265	.378	.218
2012-13:	.293	.346	.230
2013-14:	.276	.332	.204 (lowest)
2014-15:	.271	.349	.271
2015-16:	.310	.366	.256
2016-17:	.316	.353	.248
2017-18:	.262 (lowest)	.361	.213

Washington, Gabriel Owning Their Roles

Most players would be lying if they said they didn't like to start, but perhaps PJ Washington benefited from a move to the bench in mid-February.

Washington has played inspired basketball since the move to the bench vs. Auburn on Feb. 14 and has once again found his way back into the starting lineup. Since moving to a sixth man role for six games starting with that Auburn game and now the three subsequent starts in the Southeastern Conference Tournament, Washington is playing his best basketball of the season.

Over the last nine games, Washington is averaging 12.7 points and 6.3 rebounds while shooting 55.7 percent from the floor. He's scored in double figures all but one game, in the SEC Tournament championship in which he was in foul trouble. Before that stretch he was averaging 9.8 points and 5.2 rebounds on 48.8-percent shooting.

In the six games Washington was coming off the bench, Wenyen Gabriel was starting in his place. When John Calipari went back to Washington in the starting lineup, it didn't affect Gabriel's confidence one bit. As a matter of fact, he's played better off the bench in the last three games.

During the SEC Tournament run, Gabriel averaged 13.7 points and made a team-best 11 of 15 treys, including a 7-for-7 performance in the semifinals vs. Alabama. The seven made 3-pointers was a school record in the SEC Tournament and the most made 3-pointers in school history without a miss in any game.

The Rebound Went to Jarred

Jarred Vanderbilt has been on the roster all season, but his presence in the lineup has felt like a midseason addition with the freshman forward returning from a left foot injury. The injury kept him out of the first 17 games of the season.

Vanderbilt made his debut at South Carolina after suffering the injury in late September. He's made an immediate impact on the team by leading the Wildcats in rebounding with 7.9 boards per game despite averaging just 17.0 minutes since returning. He's grabbed 10 or more boards five times in just 14 games, including 11 rebounds in 11 minutes in the comeback win at No. 7/7 West Virginia. He snagged a season-high 15 boards in the win over Missouri. Overall he's averaging a rebound once every 2.16 minutes of play (more on that below).

Calipari pointed to Vanderbilt's play as the difference-maker in a win over Alabama to help snap a four-game losing streak. Vanderbilt, according to Calipari is a "beast." The energy-playmaking forward provided a career-high 11 points and a game-high nine rebounds in the win. He followed it up with the same stat line in the road win at Arkansas and then turned in his first career double-double with 11 points and 15 boards against Missouri.

Upon his return, head coach John Calipari raved about his presence in practice and mentioned that he didn't remember how physical Vanderbilt being. Equipped with elite ball-handling skills, especially for someone listed as a 6-foot-9 forward, Vanderbilt has the ability to play "point forward" -- and was needed to against South Carolina.

Although the initial plan was to ease him into games to get him caught up in the offense and because of a lack of conditioning, Vanderbilt was forced to run the point in his career debut vs. South Carolina when the Wildcats' backcourt (already absent Quade Green because of a back injury) got into foul trouble.

Vanderbilt suffered an injury in practice last week and did not play in the Southeastern Conference Tournament. He is day-to-day heading into the NCAA Tournament.

But back to his rebounding. At this point, his ratio of rebounds per minutes played is the best single-season ratio in school history (minimum 100 minutes played, with minutes statistics available since the 1962-63 season).

Player (season)	Minutes	Rebounds	Ratio*
Jarred Vanderbilt (2017-18)	238	110	2.16
DeMarcus Cousins (2009-10)	893	375	2.38
Dan Issel (1967-68)	836	328	2.55
Jim Andrews (1970-71)	306	120	2.55
John Adams (1962-63)	239	91	2.63
Jim Andrews (1972-73)	936	348	2.69
Mark Soderberg (1970-71)	129	47	2.74
Dan Issel (1968-69)	1063	381	2.79
Dan Issel (1969-70)	1044	369	2.83
Rick Robey (1974-75)	616	214	2.88
Tom Payne (1970-71)	816	283	2.88

*One rebound per minutes played

Big-Game Cal, Cats

John Calipari's teams aren't just good against the best teams in the country, they're great. Not only does Kentucky have a 52-26 record (.667) vs. Associated Press Top 25 teams, UK is 5-3 when both teams are ranked in the AP top five under Calipari.

All-time, Calipari is 11-7 when both teams are ranked in the AP top five. When both teams are ranked in the AP Top 25, Calipari's all-time record is 76-49, including a 45-21 mark at Kentucky. When both are ranked in the top 10 he has a 24-15 record, including 13-8 at UK.

Taking Care of Business

Kentucky's 52-26 record vs. opponents ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 in John Calipari's tenure is impressive, but the Wildcats' ability to beat all-comers can't be overlooked. Under Calipari, UK is 221-37 vs. unranked competition, an .857 winning percentage.

UK has five losses to unranked opponents this season. It's the first time UK has had multiple losses to unranked teams since the 2015-16 season.

Hold Them to 55 Points and 40 Percent from the Field

Defense has always been a recipe for success for the Wildcats under John Calipari. The special ingredient: 55 points. UK is a perfect 64-0 under Calipari when holding the opponent to 55 points or fewer. The Wildcats are 152-6 under Calipari when limiting the opponent to 63 points or less. Kentucky's 61-59 loss to Tennessee on Feb. 6 snapped a 40-game winning streak when holding the opponent to 63 or less.

Kentucky has also fared well when it keeps its opponents to a 40-percent clip or lower from the floor. UK is 167-14 against opponents under Calipari when its field-goal percentage is 40 percent or lower. UK is 15-4 in such games this season and held

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five straight opponents to less than 40 percent from Jan. 13-27. That was the longest such streak for the Wildcats since UK had six such games from Feb. 6, 2016 to Feb. 23, 2016. UK held all three of its Southeastern Conference Tournament opponents to less than 40 percent.

Next Man Up

The Wildcats dealt with a plenty of injuries in 2017-18.

- Jarred Vanderbilt missed the first 17 games of the season with a left foot injury he sustained during the preseason. He suffered a left leg injury last week in practice and missed the Southeastern Conference Tournament quarterfinals. He is day-to-day
- Quade Green missed three games (Vanderbilt, Texas A&M and South Carolina) with a back strain
- Tai Wynyard hasn't played since Dec. 31 because of a back injury and is expected to miss the rest of the season due to the injury. He was also suspended from team activities recently due to a violation of team rules until further notice
- Jemarl Baker underwent left knee surgery on Oct. 27. He has started to workout recently

Comeback Cats

Kentucky came back from double-digit deficits in victories at West Virginia and against Vanderbilt. It's the first time that's happened since the Wildcats rallied from three straight double-figure holes vs. Florida, Vanderbilt and Texas A&M to end the 2016-17 regular season.

Both comeback victories were impressive in their own right. The one vs. Vanderbilt, saw the Wildcats rally back, fall behind again, get behind by five points with 40 seconds, and pull off a stunning late charge to force overtime and eventually win it.

The victory vs. West Virginia was impressive considering the circumstances. UK trailed by as many as 17 in the second half in one of the most hostile environments in college basketball. All the Wildcats did after intermission was outscore West Virginia 50-28 in the second half en route to one of the biggest comebacks in program history.

- It was the first 17-point or more deficit UK overcame since trailing by 19 vs. Vanderbilt on Feb. 28, 2017
- It was the largest deficit overcome of a top-10 opponent since trailing No. 3 Duke by 18 points on March 22, 1998, vs. Duke in the NCAA Tournament South Regional finals
- Kentucky's comeback from a 15-point halftime deficit was the third-largest halftime comeback in school history. UK rallied from a 16-point halftime deficit at LSU on Feb. 15, 1994, for a 99-95 victory in what's known as the Mardi Gras Miracle. The Wildcats also rallied from a 16-point halftime deficit at No. 13 Louisville on Dec. 18, 2004
- The five biggest halftime comebacks in school history have all been on the road
- UK also rallied from an 11-point hole to start the game at Arkansas

Best in the Bluegrass

Kentucky has been dominant against teams in the state under John Calipari. UK is 16-2 against in-state foes with Calipari at the helm.

The mark also includes an 9-2 mark vs. Louisville. Two of the victories over the Cardinals came in postseason play. UK had its four-game winning streak snapped in 2016-17 but has won all five meetings played in Rupp Arena, including a 29-point blowout this season, the third-biggest margin of victory in the history of the series. Louisville's two wins have come by a combined six points.

Here's a list of the meetings between the state's two premier programs since Cal took over at UK:

- Jan. 2, 2010 - UK won 71-62 at Rupp Arena
- Dec. 31, 2010 - UK won 78-63 at KFC YUM! Center
- Dec. 31, 2011 - UK won 69-62 at Rupp Arena
- March 31, 2012 - UK won 69-61 at the Superdome (NCAA Final Four in New Orleans)
- Dec. 29, 2012 - Louisville won 80-77 at KFC YUM! Center
- Dec. 28, 2013 - UK won 73-66 at Rupp Arena
- March 28, 2014 - UK won 74-69 at Lucas Oil Stadium (NCAA Sweet 16 in Indianapolis)
- Dec. 27, 2014 - UK won 58-50 at KFC YUM! Center
- Dec. 26, 2015 - UK won 75-73 at Rupp Arena
- Dec. 21, 2016 - Louisville won 73-70 at KFC YUM! Center
- Dec. 29, 2017 - UK won 90-61 at Rupp Arena

Recruit and Reload

With everything the Wildcats lost last season to the professional ranks and graduation, UK reloaded with a historic recruiting class.

The Recruiting Services Consensus Index, which tallies major recruiting rankings and plugs them into a formula to calculate a consensus ranking, not only rated UK's 2017 class the best of the season – it measures this group as the best ever.

With 582 points in its recruiting calculations, this 2017 Kentucky group beat out another Wildcat class – the 2013 haul – to claim the title as the best recruiting class ever. That 2013 group had 557 points and consisted of Julius Randle, Andrew Harrison, Aaron Harrison, Dakari Johnson, James Young, Marcus Lee and Derek Willis. The RSCI rankings began in 1998.

The 2017 class consists of Kevin Knox (No. 10), Jarred Vanderbilt (No. 13), PJ Washington (No. 14), Nick Richards (No. 18), Quade Green (No. 23), Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (No. 30), Hamidou Diallo (No. 46) and Jemarl Baker (No. 72).

The RSCI includes individual player rankings from all of the major recruiting services, which this season featured Rivals, Scout, 247Sports and longtime recruiting analyst Van Coleman. The RSCI formula uses each of those services' rankings (only the top 100) players to assign a point value to each recruit. Using the point totals for all the five major services, it then adds the totals for all players in a class for the team's final score.

If all five RSCI sources had counted Diallo with the 2017 class, the Wildcats' score would have been closer to 630, according to the site.

UK has ranked No. 1 in the RSCI in seven of Calipari's nine classes at Kentucky.

Pulliam Named to SEC Community Service Team

Kentucky redshirt junior guard Dillon Pulliam was named to the Southeastern Conference's Men's Basketball Community Service team. Pulliam is UK's representative on the 14-man team that honors players' exemplary service to their communities.

This marks the 20th year for the SEC Community Service Team for men's basketball. All 21 league-sponsored sports have had a Community Service Team since 2004. The team honors student-athletes beyond the field for their on-going efforts in the community.

Pulliam has been a mainstay in the community since his arrival on campus in 2015. He spent countless hours serving in any capacity he can. The Cynthiana, Kentucky, native spent his summer break serving on a mission trip to Belize in August of 2017.

Pulliam has delivered gifts, served dinner and sang Christmas carols to families in the Lexington community every holiday season in his three years at Kentucky. He is an annual participant in UK's Back Pack Program with God's Pantry to help pack and distribute lunches to students across the city. During the God's Pantry delivery over the years, he has played kickball and other activities with students.

In September, Pulliam and his teammates helped raise more than $1 million along with the Red Cross in a Hurricane Harvey tel-e-thon.

Other initiatives he's been a part of include: serving Thanksgiving lunch at the Salvation Army and serving as a guest speaker at local elementary schools.

Docu-Series Premiered on Facebook Watch on Feb. 17

Fans will continue to get an unprecedented view into the inner workings of the program with a sports docu-series that began airing Feb. 17 on Facebook Watch.

"Inside the Madness: University of Kentucky Basketball" is a 10-episode series that will showcase an intimate portrait of the winningest program in college basketball history. From the executive producers of Showtime's "A Season With," the series will go behind the scenes to not only explore the action on the court, but also the lives of student-athletes and the social responsibility that comes from being in the national spotlight.

New episodes of Inside the Madness will air on Facebook Watch on Saturdays from now until March 31. Once postseason play heats up, episodes will air twice a week. A full schedule is listed below. Fans can add the show to their watch lists by following the Inside the Madness: Kentucky Basketball show page on Facebook Watch.

The Inside the Madness: University of Kentucky Basketball schedule:

- Episode 1: Saturday, Feb. 17
- Episode 2: Saturday, Feb. 24
- Episode 3: Saturday, March 3
- Episode 4: Saturday, March 10
- Episode 5: Wednesday, March 14
- Episode 6: Saturday, March 17
- Episode 7: Wednesday, March 21
- Episode 8: Saturday, March 24
- Episodes 9 and 10: Saturday, March 31

International Cats

The Wildcats were well represented in international basketball this summer.

Hamidou Diallo, PJ Washington, Tai Wynyard and John Calipari all were part of the 2017 FIBA World Cup in Cairo. Sacha Killeya-Jones and Brad Calipari also traveled abroad this summer to play basketball.

Diallo and Washington, coached by John Calipari, captured a bronze medal for Team USA, while Wynyard was the star for the New Zealand Junior Tall Blacks.

2017-18 Lineup Comparison

A breakdown of Kentucky's most used lineups, including a breakdown of each lineup's +/- statistics:

Most Frequent Lineups	Total Minutes	Points For	Points Against	+/-	+/- per 40 min.
Diallo, Richards, Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander, Washington	105:25	186	195	-9	-3.42
Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander, Washington, Gabriel, Green	98:59	211	172	+39	+15.76
Diallo, Richards, Knox, Washington, Green	84:12	173	164	+9	+4.28
Diallo, Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander, Washington, Gabriel	75:19	154	127	+27	+14.34
Diallo, Richards, Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander, Gabriel	74:13	143	115	+28	+15.09
Richards, Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander, Washington, Green	58:01	97	112	-15	-10.34
Diallo, Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander, Washington, Killeya-Jones	55:32	93	101	-8	-5.76
Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander, Gabriel, Green, Killeya-Jones	51:10	79	93	-14	-10.94
Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander, Washington, Green, Vanderbilt	45:20	112	100	+12	+10.59
Diallo, Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander, Gabriel, Killeya-Jones	43:37	91	61	+30	+27.51

Washington led Team USA in scoring at 12.9 points per game and added 5.1 rebounds and 2.2 assists. Diallo contributed 10.9 points, 3.9 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.1 steals per game. Wynyard led the Junior Tall Blacks in scoring at 14.3 points per game and rebounding with 9.3 boards per outing.

Kevin Knox made the final 16 cuts for Team USA before the roster was trimmed to 12, but he pulled his name from contention after suffering a minor hamstring injury. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander declined an invite to join the Canadian national team for its training camp.

Meanwhile, Killeya-Jones attended Great Britain's national training camp in August to compete for a spot on Great Britain's FIBA EuroBasket 2017 team, while Brad Calipari went on an international basketball trip with Global Sports Academy to Croatia. He averaged 14.3 points, 6.5 assists and 3.3 rebounds in four games.

Calipari Inks Three for 2018 During Fall Signing Period

In what's become somewhat of a fall tradition in college basketball and a celebration of riches in the Big Blue Nation, the Kentucky men's basketball team has begun building one of the strongest recruiting classes in the country, signing three of the nation's top players during the early fall signing period. Highly rated prospects Tyler Herro, Keldon Johnson and Immanuel Quickley have all inked national letters of intent with UK.

All three players are consensus four- or five-star prospects and all are ranked in the top 50 by the major national recruiting services. Although it's still early in the recruiting process with a number of dominoes still to fall, national analysts once again believe UK's class will be one of the top hauls for 2018.

In every season in the John Calipari era, the Wildcats have signed a top-three recruiting class according to the Recruiting Services Consensus Index, which tallies major recruiting rankings and plugs them into a formula to calculate a consensus ranking.

- Tyler Herro - At 6-foot-5, Herro has length, and now listed at 195 pounds by 247Sports, he's quickly adding muscle to his frame. The shooting guard out of Whitnall High School in Greenfield, Wisconsin, averaged 23.9 points and shot 39 percent from 3-point range in his junior season in high school. The top-ranked player out of Wisconsin, Herro is considered one of the top shooting guards in the 2018 class. A consensus four-star recruit, Herro is ranked as high as No. 27 in ESPN's rankings, No. 38 by Rivals and No. 40 by 247Sports. Herro was one of 54 players selected for the USA Basketball Junior National Team minicamp in October. He also averaged 14.8 points, 5.9 rebounds and 3.1 assists per game on the Nike circuit this past summer, shooting 36 percent from 3-point range
- Keldon Johnson - A 6-6 shooting guard out of Oak Hill Academy in Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, Johnson is a consensus five-star player and one of the best in the class of 2018. A native of South Hill, Virginia, he previously played for Huntington Prep in Huntington, West Virginia, before transferring to Oak Hill for the 2017-18 season. Johnson is ranked as high as the No. 7 overall prospect by ESPN, including third at his position. 247Sports ranks him as the nation's No. 11 overall player, while Rivals has him at No. 18. He led his Boo Williams (Va.) AAU team to the semifinals of the Peach Jam after averaging 20.7 points, 8.5 rebounds and 3.1 assists during the Nike regular season. Johnson took home MVP honors at the NBPA Top 100 Camp in June. Like Herro, Johnson was one of 54 players selected for the USA Basketball Junior National Team minicamp in October
- Immanuel Quickley - A 6-4 guard out of the John Carroll School in Bel Air, Maryland, Quickley is a consensus five-star prospect. Considered a consensus top-three player at his position, he's ranked as high as No. 10 by Rivals, No. 12 by ESPN and No. 13 by 247Sports. In his junior season at John Carroll, Quickley averaged 23.7 points and 7.2 assists. He scored 30 or more in five games, 20 or more in 14 games and finished with eight double-doubles. He also averaged 25.7 points, 4.7 rebounds and shot 42.1 percent from 3-point range in the Adidas Summer Championships in July. Quickley was a member of the 2017 USA Men's U19 World Cup Team that competed in Cairo. Playing under Calipari, Quickley averaged 6.7 points and 2.4 assists in 18.3 minutes per game. He was named the Baltimore Sun Metro Player of the Year in 2016

Wildcats Selected for High School All-America Games

The Kentucky men's basketball team's 2018 recruiting class will be well represented during the 2018 all-star games. The McDonald's All American Game in March will feature UK signees Keldon Johnson and Immanuel Quickley. UK will also have two players at the annual Jordan Brand Classic with Johnson and Tyler Herro.

Joining an elite list that features some of the greatest players to play for Kentucky, incoming Wildcats Johnson and Quickley were selected to participate in the 41st annual McDonald's All American Game on March 28 in Philips Arena in Atlanta. The game will tip off at 7 p.m. ET and air on ESPN.

With the selections of Johnson and Quickley, UK has signed 32 players during the John Calipari era who have been named to the prestigious high school event, more than any other school in the country during that time period. Multiple players from each signing class have been tabbed McDonald's All Americans during the Calipari era, including five in the 2013 and 2017 classes.

Kentucky has signed 64 McDonald's All Americans since the team began in 1977, including current Wildcats Sacha Killeya-Jones (2016), Quade Green, (2017), Kevin Knox (2017), Nick Richards (2017), Jarred Vanderbilt (2017) and PJ Washington (2017).

Johnson and Herro were among 25 players selected for the Jordan Brand Classic. The annual game, featuring some of the best high school talent in the country, will take place April 8 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York.

UK has had multiple players compete in every Jordan Brand Classic during the John Calipari era, including six in 2013. Since Calipari's arrival, 35 total players have been selected for the Jordan Brand Classic game. All told, 40 Wildcats have played in the game.

- Johnson is a semifinalist for the Naismith National Boys' High School Player of the Year. He's one of 10 player eligible for the award, which will be announced March 8
- Johnson was named to the Naismith Trophy High School All-American Second Tea, while Quickley was an honorable-mention selection

UK Tops Nation with 27 Players on NBA Opening-Day Rosters

Kentucky's unprecedented success with helping players reach the NBA has surpassed a new level of extreme. At the start of the 2017-18 NBA season, a whopping 27 players on NBA opening-day rosters played and finished their college basketball careers at the University of Kentucky, the nation's most prolific NBA player-producing program in the country. UK's 27 players are once again far and away the most of any college basketball program. Duke was second with 20 former players and North Carolina and Kansas each have 16 on opening-day rosters.

Of the 489 players in the NBA to start the 2017-18 season, more than 5.5 percent played and finished their college basketball careers at UK. Seven NBA teams feature multiple Wildcats.

All told, UK's 27 players represented on 15 of the league's 30 teams. Of the 27 Wildcats on an opening-day NBA roster, head coach John Calipari has coached 25 of them. With Tyreke Evans (Memphis Grizzlies) and Derrick Rose (Cleveland Cavaliers), who played for Calipari at Memphis, Calipari has coached 27 players on 2017-18 opening-day rosters, the most of any coach.

The Wildcats also have a handful of players on the doorstep of the league in the NBA G-League, including Aaron Harrison, Mychal Mulder, Marquis Teague and Derek Willis and, and several others playing professionally internationally.

Kentucky has experienced unprecedented success at putting players in the NBA under Calipari. In the eight seasons of the Calipari era, 31 players have been selected in the NBA Draft, more than any other school. Included in the recent run are 24 first-round picks, three No. 1 overall selections (Anthony Davis, Karl-Anthony Towns and John Wall), seven top-five picks and 17 lottery selections.

Using figures compiled by basketball-reference.com and spotrac.com, Calipari-coached players only (which includes Rose and Evans but not Jodie Meeks or Rajon Rondo) have amassed nearly $1.5 billion in career NBA contracts ($1.455 billion). In the eight seasons Calipari has been the head coach at Kentucky, his players have totaled more than $1.09 billion in NBA contracts.

In just the 2017-18 season alone, UK players are slated to make more than $178 million. Calipari-coached players only (which includes Rose and Evans but not Meeks or Rondo) will make more than $177 million.

UK's growing NBA contingent is already off to a fast start to the 2017-18 season:

- According to Basketball Reference, Davis is the only player since 1983-84 to post 95-plus points and 50-plus rebounds in the first three games of a season
- DeMarcus Cousins returned to Sacramento, his former team, for the first time by recording 41 points, 23 rebounds and six assists. It was the first time a player scored at least 40 points, grabbed at least 20 rebounds and dished out at least five assists since Chris Webber did it on Jan. 5, 2001. According to NBA.com/stats, he iwasthe first player with at least 40 points, at least 20 rebounds and at least six assists on 50-percent shooting since Bob McAdoo did it on Jan. 15, 1976
- Malik Monk became the first Charlotte rookie to score 25 or more points in a game since Michael Kidd-Gilchrist in December of 2012 when he netted 25 on Nov. 1
- Towns recorded his 122th double-double of his career in his 175th career game. According to Timberwolves public relations, in the past 35 years, only Shaquille O'Neal, Tim Duncan and David Robinson have recorded more double-doubles in their first 175 games
- James Young, then playing in the NBA G-League, recorded back-to-back 40-point games in November
- Cousins (Oct. 30), Towns (Nov. 20) and Davis (Nov. 27) have all won NBA Player of the Week
- Cousins became the first player this season to record 500 points and 250 rebounds
- On Nov. 28, Towns recorded his 27th career game with at least 20 points and 15 rebounds. According to ESPN Stats & Info, only Davis has more since 2015-16
- Booker scored 46 points in a win over The Philadelphia 76ers on Dec. 4 for his 10th 30-point game of the season. Only LeBron James reached 10 30-point games faster than Booker in 2017-18
- On Nov. 6, Booker became the fourth-youngest player to score 3,000 career points, behind only James, Kevin Durant and Carmelo Anthony
- Cousins recorded 40 points and 22 rebounds on Dec. 6 vs. Denver. According to NBA.com/stats, he's the first player with multiple 40-point, 20-rebound games in a season since Patrick Ewing had two such games in 1989-90. Add in his four blocks that game and he became the first player to record 40 points, 20 rebounds and four blocks in a game since Hakeem Olajuwon in March 1989
- With Rondo's triple-double on Dec. 11, Rondo and Cousins marked the first time in Pelicans franchise history teammates posted triple-doubles in the same season
- Enes Kanter became the fifth player and first since Bob Lanier in 1971 to have at least 30 points and 20 rebounds in a game on Christmas Day when he had 31 points and 22 boards vs. the 76ers
- Rondo set a Pelicans franchise record with 25 assists on Dec. 27 in a win over the Nets. He became the first player with 25 assists in an NBA game since Jason Kidd (1996), according to NBA.com/stats. He's one of only seven players to ever dish out 25 or more assists and the only player to do it in 30 minutes or less of action, according to ESPN Stats & Info
- Davis recorded a 48-point, 17-rebound game on Jan. 14 followed by a 45-point, 16-rebound effort on Jan. 16. According to SportsCenter, he's just the third player in NBA history with back-to-back games of at least 45 points and at least 15 rebounds. Davis has done it twice (he did it in 2016-17 as well)
- Cousins posted a monster stat line of 44 points 24 rebounds and 10 assiss game on Jan. 22 in a win over Chicago. Cousins became just the fifth NBA player and first since Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1972 to have as many as 40 points, 20 rebounds and 10 assists in a game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau
- Cousins suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon on Jan. 26. He was averaging 25.2 points, 12.9 rebounds and 5.4 assists per game. According to ESPN Stats and Info, over the last 50 seasons, only four players averaged at least 25 points, 10 rebounds, and five assists per game for an entire season. All four of those players won the league's MVP award
- Kanter had 20 points, 20 rebounds, and five assists in a Knicks win on Feb. 1. The last Knicks player with that many points, rebounds and assists in a Knicks win was Jerry Lucas (23-22-9) in 1971
- Davis scored 43 points on Feb. 2 to become the Pelicans' all-time scoring leader, passing David West. Davis became the all-time leading scorer for New Orleans in 380 regular season games. West, the former all-time leading scorer for the franchise at 8,690 points, did it in 530 regular season games
- On Feb. 10, Davis notched his second career game with 40 points, 15 rebounds and five steals. Over the last 30 seasons, the rest of the NBA has two such games combined
- With another 40-point, 15-rebound game on Feb. 14, Davis has the second-most 40-15 games (11) in the last 35 year, behind only Shaquille O'Neal (19), according to ESPN

NOTES

Stats & Info

- At NBA All-Star weekend, Booker won the Three-Point Contest with a record score of 28 in the championship round, Towns posted a double-double (17 points and 10 rebounds) and Jamal Murray scored 21 points in the Rising Stars Challenge
- Towns had an NBA-leading 51 double-doubles heading into the All-Star break. Per EliasSports, ties Kevin Love (2010-11) for the most before the All-Star break in NBA history. Towns notched his 53rd of the season on Feb. 25 running his career total to 167. That's the most double-doubles of any player since he entered the league in 2015.
- Davis had 45 points, 17 rebounds, five steals and five blocks on Feb. 22. He's the first player with at least 40 points, 15 rebounds, five steals and five blocks in the same game since the NBA began tracking steals and blocks in 1973-74
- Davis followed that performance up with 53 points, 17 rebounds and five blocks on Feb. 26 to join Bob McAdoo as the only players with 50 points and five blocks since blocks were tracked in 1973-74. It was also his fifth 40-point, 10-rebound game in February, the most over a calendar month in the past 35 years
- According to the Pelicans, Davis joined Moses Malone as the only players in 40 seasons to average more than 35 points and 10 rebounds in a calendar month when he did it in February
- Davis was named the Western Conference Player of the Month on March 1 after averaging 35.0 points, 13.0 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 2.2 blocks a game with the Pelicans earning an 8-3 record in that span.
- On March 3, Booker became the third-youngest player to reach 4,000 career points. Only LeBron James and Kevin Durant did it faster
- As of March 4, Booker's 22 3-point games this season are the most for a Suns player since Amar'e Stoudemire had 21 in 2007-08
- Towns moved past Tony Campbell (4,888) into seventh place on the Wolves' all-time scoring list March 1 at Portland

Cats Impress at NBA All-Star Weekend

Another banner NBA All-Star weekend ended with two solid performances by Karl-Anthony Towns and Anthony Davis in the 2018 NBA All-Star Game. Towns (2015) was one of the top performers in the game with 17 points and 10 rebounds – the only player on Team Stephen with a double-double – while Davis (2012) followed up his 2017 MVP performance with 12 points in 17 minutes.

Towns went 7 for 11 from the floor and led Team Stephen at halftime with 13 points. Davis, making his third career start and donning injured teammate and former UK men's basketball player's DeMarcus Cousins' uniform, went 6 of 9 from the field.

Davis' Team LeBron squad came back for a 148-145 win over Towns' Team Stephen at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. LeBron James, with 29 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, won MVP honors. Team LeBron was coached by 1978 national champion and current head coach of the Toronto Raptors Dwane Casey.

Cousins (2010) and John Wall (2010) were also selected to the game – Cousins as a starter – but the Wildcats were unable to play due to injuries after their all-star selections.

With the four selections, Kentucky joined UCLA as the only program to have four former players picked in a single NBA All-Star game in the event's history. UCLA achieved the feat in 1983 with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Marques Johnson, Kiki Vandeweghe and Jamaal Wilkes on that year's roster.

Jamal Murray (2016) and De'Aaron Fox (2017) tipped off NBA All-Star weekend for the Wildcats in the Mtn Dew Kickstart Rising Stars Challenge on Friday. Murray, the 2017 MVP, posted 21 points, seven assists and six rebounds while Fox represented the Sacramento Kings with four points and two assists. Murray also participated in Saturday's Skills Challenge.

On Saturday night, Devin Booker (2015) won the JBL Three-Point Contest with a record score of 28 in the championship round. He defeated the Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson, considered one of the NBA's best 3-point shooters and winner of the 2016 competition.

Booker became the first player from Kentucky to win the JBL Three-Point Contest. Wall and Kenny Walker (1983-86) won the Slam Dunk contests in 2014 and 1989, respectively. Towns won the Skills Challenge in 2016.

In the actual All-Star games, the Wildcats have fared just as well. Davis won the Most Valuable Player award at last year's NBA All-Star Game after Murray took home MVP honors in the Rising Stars Challenge. Adrian "Odie" Smith (1957-58) also won the MVP award in the 1966 game.

Former stars Terrence Jones (2011-12) and Aaron Harrison (2014-15) were selected to represent the G-League All-Stars in the NBA G League International Challenge and performed well against the Mexican National Team on Sunday. Harrison scored a team-high-tying 13 points with three 3-pointers and Jones recorded eight points and six rebounds.

It wasn't in Los Angeles at the NBA All-Star Game, but former UK men's basketball player Isaiah Briscoe (2016-17) put on a show in the Estonia/Latvia All-Star Game overseas. Briscoe, who averaged 10.9 points, 5.4 rebounds and 3.7 assists in two seasons with the Wildcats, scored 50 points in the all-star game. He's averaging 17.7 points, 4.0 assists and 3.5 rebounds for Kalev-Cramo after helping the Wildcats to the Elite Eight last season.

Success Rate

The Wildcats received an NCAA award in the spring of 2017 for placing in the top 10 percent of all men's basketball teams in the country in the NCAA's annual Academic Progress Rate. UK scored a perfect 1,000.

It's the third straight year the men's basketball team received the award and the fourth time since 2009.

The APR provides a real-time look at a team's academic success by the progress of each student-athlete on scholarship. The APR measures academic eligibility, retention and graduation. The scores are a four-year composite, covering the 2012-13 through 2015-16 school years.

Every Division I sports team across the nation calculates its APR each academic year, similar to a report card. Scholarship student-athletes each semester earn one point for remaining eligible and one point for staying in school or graduating.

UK has received a perfect 1,000 mark in each of the last four single-year APR rates. The NCAA cut score to compete in the 2016-17 postseason is a 930 four-year APR. Teams scoring below 930 can face consequences intended to direct additional focus on academics. Those penalties can include practice restrictions and playing-season reductions.

UK to Tip Off 2018-19 Season as a Part of Champions Classic

Already one of the premier events of the college basketball season, the annual State Farm Champions Classic's spotlight is about to get even brighter with the announcement Wednesday that the event will tip off the 2018-19 season.

The event, which features Kentucky, Duke, Kansas and Michigan State, will move up a week next season to Nov. 6, coinciding with the new start of the college basketball season.

The 2018 Champions Classic, which will continue to be a neutral-site doubleheader, will feature UK vs. Duke and Michigan State vs. Kansas. Indianapolis' Bankers Life Fieldhouse will serve as the backdrop for the 2018 games, with the 2019 Champions Classic returning to Madison Square Garden in New York.

The Champions Classic will be in its eighth season in 2018 with Kentucky and Duke leading the way with 4-3 records. Kansas and Michigan State are 3-4 in the series.

Since the Champions Classic began in 2011, all four teams have reached the NCAA Final Four at least once, with Kentucky and Duke winning national titles, in 2012 and 2015, respectively. Over the last 14 games of the Classic, there have been 13 top-25 matchups, including two games featuring No. 1 vs. No. 2 (according to the AP Top 25).

UK has played Duke in the Champions Classic two times. The Blue Devils defeated the Wildcats 75-68 in 2012 in Atlanta but Kentucky beat Duke 74-63 in 2015 in Chicago.

Wall Inducted into UK Athletics Hall of Fame

John Wall was inducted into the UK Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the 2017 class in September.

Wall was the first national player of the year in program history as winner of the Adolph Rupp Trophy. He was named 2010 USBWA National Freshman of the Year, a Consensus First Team All-American, 2010 SEC Player of the Year by Associated Press and SEC Coaches, SEC Freshman of the Year by the AP, First Team All-SEC and SEC Tournament MVP.

Wall led UK to a No. 1 national ranking, SEC regular-season championship and the SEC Tournament championship. He set the single-season assists record with 241 assists (broken in 2016 by Tyler Ulis) and averaged 16.6 points and 6.5 assists. He was the first No. 1 overall NBA Draft pick in UK history. A four-time NBA All-Star through his first seven seasons, he has averaged double-figure scoring every season. Wall was tabbed to the All-NBA Third Team in 2017. He is the Washington franchise career leader in assists and steals.

Crawford Tabbed UK's 2018 SEC Legend

Former Kentucky men's basketball star Joe Crawford represented the Wildcats as a member of the 2018 Southeastern Conference Legends at the SEC Tournament in St. Louis.

Past greats from all 14 SEC member institutions were honored at the league tournament March 7-11 at the Scottrade Center. Crawford was honored at halftime of UK's game against Georgia.

Crawford, a four-year letterwinner from 2005-08, is one of the leading scorers in Kentucky's storied program history. With 1,438 career points, Crawford finish his career at No. 19 on UK's all-time scoring list.

An All-SEC Second Team pick in 2008 by the league's coaches, Crawford averaged double-figure scoring in three of his four seasons, including 17.9 points per game in his senior year. He made 40 or more 3-pointers in his final three seasons, including 63 in both his junior and senior seasons.

In 2005, while Crawford was a freshman, the Wildcats won both the SEC regular-season and tournament crowns. Crawford was considered a fan favorite. He was drafted 58th overall in the second round of the 2008 NBA Draft by the Los Angeles Lakers and played professionally until 2015.

It was the 20th year of the SEC Basketball Legends program.

Wins vs. Losses

Result	FG%	Opp. FG%	3-Pt. FG%	Opp 3-Pt. FG%	FT%	RPG	APG	TOPG	BPG	SPG	PPG	Opp PPG
Wins	.491	.401	.408	.294	.714	39.1	14.5	12.3	5.1	5.8	81.2	68.9
Losses	.420	.417	.256	.311	.644	37.4	10.8	14.7	4.3	5.1	65.9	73.8

KENTUCKY BY THE NUMBERS

Date	Opponent	Result	Points	Rebounds	Blocks	Steals	Assists
N.10	**[-/-] UTAH VALLEY**	W, 73-63	Diallo - 18^	Gabriel - 13^	Two with 3	Two with 4^	Two with 4
N.12	**[-/-] VERMONT**	W, 73-69	Washington - 17^	Washington - 10^	Four with 1^	G.-Alexander - 2^	Green - 4
N.14	[4/3] Kansas[2]	L, 65-61	Knox - 20^	Two with 9^	Washington - 4^	G.-Alexander - 3^	Diallo - 4
N.17	**[-/-] ETSU[3]**	W, 78-61	Green - 21^	Knox - 10^	Killeya-Jones - 3^	Two with 2	G.-Alexander - 6^
N.20	**[-/-] TROY[3]**	W, 70-62	Knox - 17^	Diallo - 10^	Gabriel - 2	Three with 1^	Washington - 4^
N.22	**[-/-] FORT WAYNE[3]**	W, 86-67	Richards - 25^	Richards - 15^	Richards - 2^	G.-Alexander - 4^	Green - 5
N.26	**[-/-] UIC[4]**	W, 107-73	Knox - 25^	Green - 6	Richards - 3^	G.-Alexander - 2^	G.-Alexander - 6^
D.2	**[-/-] HARVARD**	W, 79-70	Knox - 20	Two with 7^	Richards - 3^	Gabriel - 3^	Green - 5^
D.9	[-/-] Monmouth[4]	W, 93-76	Diallo - 23^	Richards - 8^	Washington - 4^	Two with 2	G.-Alexander - 9^
D.16	**[RV/RV] VIRGINIA TECH**	W, 93-86	Knox - 21^	Gabriel - 9	Richards - 3^	Diallo - 3^	Two with 5
D.23	[-/-] UCLA[5]	L, 83-75	Diallo - 18	Two with 6	Three with 1	Three with 2	G.-Alexander - 5
D.29	**[RV/RV] LOUISVILLE**	W, 90-61	G.-Alexander - 24^	Three with 7	Two with 2^	G.-Alexander - 3^	Green - 5^
D.31	**[-/-] GEORGIA***	W, 66-61	G.- Alexander - 21^	Two with 10^	Two with 2^	G.-Alexander - 3^	G.-Alexander - 4^
J.3	[-/-] at LSU*	W, 74-71	Two with 18	Knox - 11^	Washington - 2^	Gabriel - 3^	G.-Alexander - 4^
J.6	[23/22] at Tennessee*	L, 76-65	Green - 14	Richards - 8	Washington - 2^	Washington - 3	G.-Alexander - 6^
J.9	**[RV/RV] TEXAS A&M***	W, 74-73	Diallo - 18	G.-Alexander - 7	G.-Alexander - 2^	Washington - 2^	G.-Alexander - 5
J.13	[-/-] at Vanderbilt*	W, 74-67	G.-Alexander - 22^	Gabriel - 9^	Three with 2^	Three with 1	G.-Alexander - 6^
J.16	[-/-] at South Carolina*	L, 76-68	Knox - 21	Knox - 8^	Five with 1^	Two with 2	Vanderbilt - 3
J.20	**[RV/RV] FLORIDA***	L, 66-64	Two with 10	Richards - 9^	Richards - 2^	Four with 1	G.-Alexander - 6
J.23	**[-/-] MISSISSIPPI STATE***	W, 78-65	Washington - 22^	Two with 7	Two with 2	Washington - 3^	G.-Alexander - 6^
J.27	[7/7] at West Virginia[6]	W, 83-76	Knox - 34^	Vanderbilt - 11^	Gabriel - 3	Green - 1	G.-Alexander - 5
J.30	[-/-] VANDERBILT*	W, 83-81[OT]	G.-Alexander - 30^	Knox - 8^	Richards - 2^	Washington - 2^	Two with 3
F.3	[-/-] at Missouri*	L, 69-60	G.-Alexander - 15	Vanderbilt - 10^	Two with 1	Two with 2^	G.-Alexander - 6^
F.6	**[15/14] TENNESSEE***	L, 61-59	Two with 15	Richards - 8^	Four with 1	G.-Alexander - 2^	G.-Alexander - 6^
F.10	[-/-] at Texas A&M*	L, 85-74	G.-Alexander - 19^	Washington - 8	G.-Alexander - 2	G.-Alexander - 2^	G.-Alexander - 8^
F.14	[10/11] at Auburn*	L, 76-66	Knox - 19^	Vanderbilt - 10	Vanderbilt - 2^	Two with 1	Two with 3
F.17	**[RV/RV] ALABAMA***	W, 81-71	Washington - 16^	Vanderbilt - 9^	Vanderbilt - 2^	G.-Alexander - 3^	Two with 4^
F.20	[RV/RV] at Arkansas*	W, 87-72	Knox - 23	Washington - 10^	Two with 2	Two with 2	G.-Alexander - 7^
F.24	**[RV/NR] MISSOURI***	W, 87-66	Knox - 21	Vanderbilt - 15^	Vanderbilt - 3^	Five with 1	G.-Alexander - 8^
F.28	**[-/-] OLE MISS***	W, 96-78	Knox - 22	Vanderbilt - 11	G.-Alexander - 3^	Green - 2^	G.-Alexander - 10^
M.3	[RV/RV] at Florida*	L, 80-67	G.-Alexander - 17	Washington - 7^	Two with 1	Four with 1	G.-Alexander - 4
M.9	vs. [-/-] vs. Georgia[7]	W, 62-49	Washington -18^	Knox - 9	Knox - 1	G.-Alexaner - 2^	G.-Alexander - 9^
M.10	vs. [-/-] vs. Alabama[7]	W, 86-63	Gabriel - 23^	Washington - 8^	Gabriel - 3^	Knox - 2^	Two with 8^
M.11	vs. [13/12] vs. Tennessee[7]	W, 77-72	G.-Alexander - 29^	Two with 7	Two with 2^	Gabriel - 3^	Two with 3
M.15	vs. [RV/RV] vs. Davidson[8]	W, 77-72	G.-Alexander - 29^	Two with 7	Two with 2^	Gabriel - 3^	Two with 3

All games in **BOLD CAPS**; Exhibition games in *italics;* *SEC game; ^game leader
1 - Kentucky Cares Classic (Rupp Arena)
2 - Champions Classic (United Center | Chicago)
3 - Adolph Rupp Classic (Rupp Arena)
4 - CITI Sports Classic (Madison Square Garden | New York)
5 - CBS Sports Classic (Smoothie King Center | New Orleans)
6 - Big 12/SEC Challenge (WVU Coliseum | Morgantown, W.Va.)
7 - SEC Tournament (Scottrade Center | St. Louis)
8 - NCAA Tournament (Taco Bell Arena | Boise, Idaho)

Times Led	Times Led	Times Led	Times Led	Times Led
G.-Alexander - 11	Knox - 8	Gabriel - 13	G.-Alexander - 17	G.-Alexander - 26
Knox - 11	Richards - 8	Richards - 12	Knox - 11	Green - 7
Washington - 5	Vanderbilt - 7	Washington - 10	Washington - 8	Washington - 3
Diallo - 4	Gabriel - 6	G.-Alexander - 8	Diallo - 6	Diallo - 2
Green - 3	Washington - 6	Vanderbilt - 6	Gabriel - 5	Vanderbilt - 2
Gabriel - 2	Diallo - 3	Diallo - 3	Green - 4	Knox - 1
Richards - 1	G.-Alexander - 2	Killeya-Jones - 3	Killeya-Jones - 4	
	Green - 1	Knox - 1	Vanderbilt - 1	
	Killeya-Jones - 1		Wynyard - 1	

Comparing the Calipari Era

A look at statistics through 34 games throughout the John Calipari era ...

Year	FG%	Opp. FG%	3-Pt. FG%	FT%	RPG	Assists	TOs.	Blocks	Steals	Points	PPG	Record
2017-18	.470	.406	.361	.697	38.6	456	443	166	191	2609	76.7	24-10
2016-17	.477	.424	.353	.701	40.2	528	409	180	206	2922	85.9	29-5
2015-16	.479	.400	.370	.683	38.8	490	376	192	191	2709	79.7	26-8
2014-15	.469	.355	.350	.722	38.2	500	361	234	223	2547	74.9	34-0
2013-14	.451	.403	.325	.682	41.1	391	415	212	162	2581	75.9	24-10
2012-13*	.475	.392	.346	.642	37.8	441	430	217	185	2396	72.6	21-12
2011-12	.483	.368	.371	.720	39.1	450	386	299	215	2607	76.7	32-2
2010-11	.462	.393	.398	.715	37.7	431	361	214	186	2581	75.9	26-8
2009-10	.479	.381	.341	.679	41.4	500	493	246	247	2694	79.2	32-2

*Season ended after 33 games

MISCELLANEOUS STATS

Team Leaders

No.	Name	GAME LEADERS PTS.	REBS.	BLKS.	Assts.	STLS.	GAMES WITH 10+ Pts	20+ Pts	10+Rebs	3+Assts	3+Blks	3+Stls	3+3s	Double-Double
0	Quade Green	3 (3)	1 (1)	-	7 (7)	4 (4)	17 (17)	1 (1)	-	16 (16)	-	-	4 (4)	-
1	Sacha Killeya-Jones	-	1 (1)	3 (6)	-	4 (4)	- (1)	-	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	-	-	-
2	Jarred Vanderbilt	-	7 (7)	6 (6)	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)	-	5 (5)	2 (2)	1 (1)	-	-	1 (1)
3	Hamidou Diallo	4 (4)	3 (3)	3 (3)	2 (2)	6 (6)	15 (15)	2 (2)	2 (2)	7 (7)	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)
4	Nick Richards	1 (1)	8 (8)	12 (12)	-	-	7 (7)	1 (1)	1 (1)		4 (4)	- (-)	-	1 (1)
5	Kevin Knox	11 (11)	8 (8)	1 (1)	1 (1)	11 (11)	28 (28)	9 (9)	2 (2)	7 (7)	-	1 (1)	8 (8)	2 (2)
10	Jonny David	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Brad Calipari	-	-	- (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Jemarl Baker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Tai Wynyard	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	11 (11)	2 (2)	8 (8)	26 (26)	17 (17)	24 (24)	5 (5)	-	31 (31)	1 (1)	6 (6)	-	1 (1)
25	PJ Washington	5 (5)	6 (6)	10 (10)	3 (3)	8 (8)	20 (20)	2 (2)	2 (2)	8 (8)	2 (2)	2 (2)	-	2 (2)
30	Dillon Pulliam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Wenyen Gabriel	2 (3)	6 (14)	13 (24)	-	5 (7)	7 (14)	1 (2)	3 (5)	2 (4)	4 (7)	3 (4)	3 (6)	- (1)

Career Total in (Parentheses)

Starting Lineups

Guard	Guard	G/F	Forward	Forward	Games	W-L
G.Alexander	Diallo	Knox	Washington	Richards	14	9-5
Green	Diallo	Knox	Washington	Richards	13	10-3
G.Alexander	Diallo	Knox	Gabriel	Richards	7	5-2

Starter	Games Started	Wins	Losses
Diallo	34	24	10
Knox	34	24	10
Richards	34	24	10
Washington	27	19	8
Gilgeous-Alexander	21	14	7
Green	13	10	3
Gabriel	7	5	2

Kentucky's Record When

KENTUCKY RECORD	ALL	SEC
Leading at halftime:	17-3	6-3
Tied at the half:	1-1	1-0
Trailing at halftime:	6-6	3-5
Shoot > 50%:	12-1	6-1
Shoot < 50%:	12-9	4-7
Shoot higher % than opp.:	19-4	7-4
Shoot lower % than opp.:	5-6	3-4
Opp. shoot worse than 50%:	22-10	9-8
Opp. shoot 50% or higher:	2-0	1-0
Score less than 60 points:	0-1	0-1
Score 60-69 points:	2-7	1-6
Score 70-79 points:	10-2	4-1
Score 80-89 points:	7-0	4-0
Score 90-99 points:	4-0	1-0
Score 100+ points:	1-0	0-0
Opp. score less than 60 pts.:	1-0	0-0
Opp. score 60-69 pts.:	11-4	4-3
Opp. score 70-79 pts.:	10-3	5-3
Opp. score 80-89 points:	2-3	1-2
Opp. score 90-99 points:	0-0	0-0
Opp. score 100+ points:	0-0	0-0
Outrebounded opponent:	19-5	9-5
Outrebounded by opponent:	5-4	1-3
Equal number of rebounds:	0-1	0-0
Fewer turnovers than opp.:	8-1	3-1
Same turnovers as opp.:	6-1	4-0
More turnovers than opp.:	9-8	3-7
Make 8 or more 3-pointers:	7-0	3-0
Make 7 or fewer 3-pointers:	17-10	7-8
Games decided by 5 or fewer:	6-3	4-2
Overtime games:	1-0	1-0

KENTUCKY RECORD	ALL	SEC
On CBS:	2-3	1-2
On ESPN/ESPN2/ESPNU:	16-6	8-5
On Fox Sports1:	0-0	0-0
On SEC Network/(+):	6-1	1-1
On FSN:	0-0	0-0
vs. SEC at Home:	7-2	7-2
vs. SEC on Road:	3-6	3-6
Games vs. AP ranked opp.:	2-4	0-3
Games following a loss:	6-4	3-4
Games following a win:	17-6	7-4
More points in the paint:	18-7	8-6
Fewer/Same points in the paint:	6-3	2-2
More bench points than opp.:	12-9	6-7
Fewer or same bench pts.:	12-1	4-1
More 2nd-chance points:	11-2	3-2
Fewer or same 2nd chance pts.:	13-8	7-6
More or same points off TOs:	18-6	7-5
Fewer points off TOs:	6-4	3-3
On Monday:	1-0	0-0
On Tuesday:	4-3	4-2
On Wednesday	3-1	2-1
On Thursday:	0-0	0-0
On Friday:	4-0	0-0
On Saturday:	8-6	3-5
On Sunday:	4-0	1-0
In November	6-1	0-0
In December	5-1	1-0
In January	6-3	5-3
In February	4-4	4-4
In March	3-1	0-1
In April	0-0	0-0

Streaks

Overall	Won 3
Unranked AP teams anywhere	Won 2
Ranked AP teams anywhere	Won 1
Home	Won 3
Home AP ranked teams	Lost 1
Home AP unranked teams	Won 5
Home SEC	Won 3
Home nonconference	Won 7
Home AP ranked SEC	Lost 1
Home AP unranked SEC	Won 5
Home AP ranked nonconference	Lost 1
Home AP unranked nonconference	Won 43
Road	Lost 1
Road AP ranked teams	Lost 1
Road AP unranked teams	Lost 1
Road SEC	Lost 1
Road nonconference	Won 1
Road AP ranked SEC	Lost 3
Road AP unranked SEC	Lost 1
Road AP ranked nonconference	Won 1
Road AP unranked nonconference	Lost 4
Neutral	Won 3
Neutral AP ranked teams	Won 1
Neutral AP unranked teams	Won 2

Active Consecutive Made Starts

Hamidou Diallo	34
Kevin Knox	34
Nick Richards	34
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	19
PJ Washington	3

Active Consecutive Made Free Throws

Quade Green	8
Wenyen Gabriel	7
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	7
Jonny David	2
Hamidou Diallo	2
Jarred Vanderbilt	2
Tai Wynyard	2

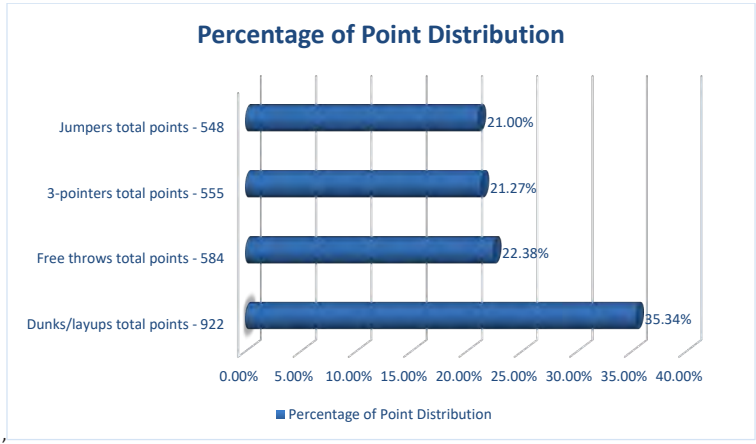
Active Consecutive Games with a 3-Pointer

Kevin Knox	10
Wenyen Gabriel	8
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	2

Win-Loss Margins

Margin	Games Won	Games Lost
1	1	
2	1	2
3	1	
4	1	1
5	2	
6		
7	3	
8	1	2
9	1	1
10	2	1
11		2
12		
13	2	1
14		
15	1	
16		
17	2	
18	1	
19	1	
20		
21	1	
22		
23	1	
24		
25+	2	

How the Cats are Scoring



Dunk Tracker

Player	Dunks in 2017-18	Dunks in Career
PJ Washington	34	34
Nick Richards	27	27
Kevin Knox	18	18
Hamidou Diallo	14	14
Sacha Killeya-Jones	9	13
Wenyen Gabriel	7	12
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	9	9
Jarred Vanderbilt	8	8
Tai Wynyard	1	1

Fast Facts

Points Per Possession	1.096
Def. Points Per Possession	1.006
Points Off Turnovers	15.7
Second-Chance Points	11.5
Points in the Paint	34.2
Fast Break Points	8.4
Bench Points	22.9
Avg. Time of Possession	16.8
Turnover Percent	18.6

How UK Scored Its First Points

Player	Dunk/Layup	Jumper	3PT	FT
Hamidou Diallo	8	2		
Quade Green	1			
S.Gilgeous-Alexander	2			1
Kevin Knox		3	4	
Nick Richards	6	2		1
PJ Washingon	2			2

THE LAST TIME ...

INDIVIDUALS

SCORING

Scored 25 points: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (29) vs. Tennessee, 3/1/18
Scored 30 points: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (30) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18
Scored 35 Points: De'Aaron Fox (39) vs. UCLA, 3/24/17
Scored 40 points: Malik Monk (47) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Scored 45 points: Malik Monk (47) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Scored 50 points: Jodie Meeks (54) at Tennessee, 1/13/09
Two players had 20 points: Kevin Knox (21), Hamidou Diallo (20), vs. Virginia Tech, 12/16/17
Three players had 20 points: DeMarcus Cousins (27)/John Wall (21)/Patrick Patterson (20) vs. Sam Houston State, 11/19/09
Two players had 30 points: Patrick Patterson (33) and Jodie Meeks (32) vs. Tennessee State, 12/22/08
Scored 20 points in two straight games: Kevin Knox (3) 2/20/18 - 2/28/18
Scored 20 points in three straight games: Kevin Knox (3) 2/20/18 - 2/28/18
Scored 20 points in four straight games: Malik Monk (4) 11/23/16 - 12/3/16
Scored 20 points in five straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in six straight games: Jamal Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in seven straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in eight straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in nine straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in 10 straight games: Jamal Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in 11 straight games: Jamal Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in 12 straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in 15 straight games: Dan Issel (18) 12/1/69 - 2/7/70
Scored 25 points in three straight games: Tayshaun Prince (3) 3/11/01-3/17/01
Scored 30 points in two straight games: Jodie Meeks vs. Appalachian State (46) 12/20/08; vs. Tennessee State (32) 12/22/08
Scored 30 points in three straight games: Dan Issel (6) 2/14/70 - 3/2/70
Scored in double figures in 10 straight games: Kevin Knox (11) 2/6/18-3/11/18
Scored in double figures in 15 straight games: Malik Monk (30) 11/11/16-2/28/17
Scored in double figures in 20 straight games: Malik Monk (30) 11/11/16-2/28/17
Scored in double figures in 25 straight games: Malik Monk (30) 11/11/16-2/28/17
Scored in double figures in 30 straight games: Malik Monk (30) 11/11/16-2/28/17
Scored in double figures in 33 straight games: Jamal Murray (34) 11/17/15 - 3/19/16
Scored in double figures in 34 straight games: Jamal Murray (34) 11/17/15 - 3/19/16
Scored in double figures in 35 straight games: Kenny Walker (36) 11/14/85 - 3/22/86
Five players scored in double figures: Kevin Knox (22), Quade Green (18), Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (17), Wenyen Gabriel (15), PJ Washington (10) vs. Ole Miss, 2/28/18
Six players scored in double figures: Kevin Knox (21), Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (14), Quade Green (12), PJ Washington (12), Hamidou Diallo (11), Jarred Vanderbilt (11) vs. Missouri, 2/24/18
Seven players scored in double figures: Randolph Morris (17), Kelenna Azubuike (15), Patrick Sparks (14), Chuck Hayes (12), Rajon Rondo (11), Ravi Moss (10) and Ramel Bradley (10) vs. Mississippi State 2/19/05,
Four players with 15 or more points: Kevin Knox (22), Quade Green (18), Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (17), Wenyen Gabriel (15) vs. Ole Miss, 2/28/18

DOUBLE-DOUBLES

Double-double: Jarred Vanderbilt (11 points, 15 rebounds) vs. Missouri, 2/24/18
Triple-double: Isaiah Briscoe (19 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists) at Ole Miss, 12/29/16
20-10 (rebs) game: Nick Richards (25 points, 15 rebounds) vs. Fort Wayne, 11/22/17
20-10 (assts) game: De'Aaron Fox (24 points, 10 assists) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
20-15 game: Nick Richards (25 points, 15 rebounds) vs. Fort Wayne, 11/22/17
30-10 game: Tayshaun Prince (33 points, 11 rebounds) vs. Tennessee State, 12/22/98
Back-to-back 20-10 games: Julius Randle (3) 11/8/13 - 11/10/13
Three straight 20-10 games: Julius Randle (3) 11/8/13 - 11/12/13
Double-double in points and rebs.: Jarred Vanderbilt (11 points, 15 rebounds) vs. Missouri, 2/24/18
Double-double in points and assists: Isaiah Briscoe (19 points, 10 assists) at Ole Miss, 12/29/16
Double-double in points and blocks: Never
Double-double in points and steals: Never
Double-double in two consecutive games: Bam Adebayo (15 pts, 18 rebs) vs. NKU, (3/17/17), (13 pts, 10 rebs) vs. Wichita State, 3/19/17)
Double-double in three consecutive games: - Julius Randle (19p, 15r) vs. Kansas State, 3/21/14; (13 p, 10 r), vs. Wichita State, 3/23/14; (15 p, 12 r), vs. Louisville, 3/28/14; (16 p, 11 r), vs. Michigan, 3/30/14
Double-double in four consecutive games: Julius Randle (19p, 15r) vs. Kansas State, 3/21/14; (13 p, 10 r), vs. Wichita State, 3/23/14; (15 p, 12 r), vs. Louisville, 3/28/14; (16 p, 11 r), vs. Michigan, 3/30/14
Double-double in five consecutive games: Julius Randle (14p, 10r) at Arkansas, (2/27/14); (10p, 15r) at South Carolina (3/1/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Alabama, (3/4/14); (16 p, 10 r) at Florida, (3/8/14); (17 p, 16 r) vs. LSU, (3/14/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Georgia, (3/15/14)
Double-double in six consecutive games: Julius Randle (14p, 10r) at Arkansas, (2/27/14); (10p, 15r) at South Carolina (3/1/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Alabama, (3/4/14); (16 p, 10 r) at Florida, (3/8/14); (17 p, 16 r) vs. LSU, (3/14/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Georgia, (3/15/14)
Double-double in seven consecutive games: Julius Randle (7) 11/18/13-11/27/13
Double-double in 10 consecutive games: Jim Andrews, 1972-73 season
Two players record double-doubles: De'Aaron Fox (16 points, 11 assists), Wenyen Gabriel (10 points, 10 rebounds) vs. Cleveland State, 11/23/16
Three players record double-doubles: DeMarcus Cousins (19 pts, 14 rebs)/Patrick Patterson (19 pts, 10 rebs)/John Wall (18 pts, 10 rebs) at Mississippi State, 2/16/10
Four players record double-doubles: Jack Givens (30 pts, 13 rebs)/Kyle Macy (16 pts, 10 assts)/Mike Phillips (22 pts, 18 rebs)/Rick Robey (23 pts, 13 rebs) vs. Southern Methodist, 11/26/77
Five players record double-doubles: Never

FIELD GOALS

Made 12 FG in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (12) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18
Made 15 FG in a game: Malik Monk (18) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 16 FG in a game: Malik Monk (18) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 17 FG in a game: Malik Monk (18) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 18 FG in a game: Malik Monk (18) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 19 FG in a game: Dan Issel (19) vs. Alabama, 2/23/70
Made 20 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70
Made 21 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70
Made 22 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70
Made 23 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70
Attempted 17 FG in a game: Kevin Knox (18) at Arkansas, 2/20/18
Attempted 18 FG in a game: Kevin Knox (18) at Arkansas, 2/20/18
Attempted 19 FG in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (19) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18
Attempted 20 FG in a game: De'Aaron Fox (20) vs. UCLA, 3/24/17
Attempted 25 FG in a game: Malik Monk (28) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16

3-POINTERS

Made 5 3-pointers in a game: Wenyen Gabriel (7) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
Made 6 3-pointers in a game: Wenyen Gabriel (7) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
Made 7 3-pointers in a game: Wenyen Gabriel (7) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
Made 8 3-pointers in a game: Malik Monk (8) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 9 3-pointers in a game: Jodie Meeks (10) at Tennessee, 1/13/09
Made 10 3-pointers in a game: Jodie Meeks (10) at Tennessee, 1/13/09
Made 11 3-pointers in a game: Never
Attempted 10 3-pointers in a game: Malik Monk (11) vs. Georgia, 1/31/17
Attempted 15 3-pointers in a game: Jodie Meeks (15) at Tennessee, 1/13/09
Attempted 16 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (16) vs. LSU 2/15/90
Attempted 17 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (19) vs. Kansas 12/6/89
Attempted 18 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (19) vs. Kansas 12/6/89
Attempted 19 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (19) vs. Kansas 12/6/89
Made a 3-pointer in 10 straight games: Kevin Knox (10), 2/10/18-3/11/18
Made a 3-pointer in 15 straight games: Jamal Murray (36), 11/13/15 - 3/19/16, Derek Willis (17), 1/12/16 - 3/17/16
Made a 3-pointer in 20 straight games: Jamal Murray (36), 11/13/15 - 3/19/16
Made a 3-pointer in 30 straight games: Jamal Murray (36), 11/13/15 - 3/19/16
Made two 3-pointers in 10 straight games: Kevin Knox (11), 2/10/16 - 3/11/18
Made three 3-pointers in 10 straight games: Gerald Fitch (20) 1/14/03 - 3/23/03
Made three 3-pointers in 15 straight games: Gerald Fitch (20) 1/14/03 - 3/23/03
Made three 3-pointers in 20 straight games: Gerald Fitch (20) 1/14/03 - 3/23/03
Made three 3-pointers in 25 straight games: Keith Bogans (29) 3/14/02 - 2/26/03

FREE THROWS

Made 8 FT in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (9) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
Made 9 FT in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (9) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
Made 10 FT in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (11) vs. Ole Miss, 2/28/18
Made 11 FT in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (11) vs. Ole Miss, 2/28/18
Made 12 FT in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (12) vs. Georgia, 12/31/17
Made 13 FT in a game: De'Aaron Fox (13) vs. UCLA, 3/24/17
Made 14 FT in a game: Tyler Ulis (14) at Arkansas, 1/21/16
Made 15 FT in a game: Rodrick Rhodes (16) vs. Ole Miss 1/18/95
Made 16 FT in a game: Rodrick Rhodes (16) vs. Ole Miss 1/18/95
Made 17 FT in a game: Dwight Anderson (18) vs. Mississippi State 2/12/79
Made 18 FT in a game: Dwight Anderson (18) vs. Mississippi State 2/12/79
Attempted 10 FT in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (12) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
Attempted 15 FT in a game: De'Aaron Fox (15), vs. UCLA, 3/24/17
Attempted 20 FT in a game: Heshimu Evans (20) vs. Ole Miss 3/5/99

REBOUNDS

15 Rebs: Jarred Vanderbilt (15) vs. Missouri, 2/24/18
16 Rebs: Bam Adebayo (18) vs. Northern Kentucky, 3/17/17
17 Rebs: Bam Adebayo (18) vs. Northern Kentucky, 3/17/17
18 Rebs: Bam Adebayo (18) vs. Northern Kentucky, 3/17/17
19 Rebs: Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (19) vs. Louisville, 12/31/11
20 Rebs: Jared Prickett (20) vs. Arkansas 2/9/94
25 Rebs: Mike Phillips (28) vs. Tennessee 1/10/76
30 Rebs: Cotton Nash (30) vs. Ole Miss 2/8/64
34 Rebs: Bob Burrow (34) vs. Temple 12/10/55
10+ Rebs in three consecutive games: Julius Randle (4) 3/21/14 - 3/30/14

THE LAST TIME ...

10+ Rebs in four consecutive games: Julius Randle (4) 3/21/14 - 3/30/14
10+ Rebs in five consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ Rebs in six consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ Rebs in seven consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ rebs in eight consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ rebs in nine consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ rebs in 10 consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
Two players had 10 rebounds: Hamidou Diallo (10) and Wenyen Gabriel (10) vs. Georgia, 12/31/17
Three players had 10 rebounds: Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (19), Terrence Jones (11), Anthony Davis (10) vs. Louisville, 12/31/11

ASSISTS

6 assists: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (8), Quade Green (8) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
7 assists: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (8), Quade Green (8) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
8 assists: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (8), Quade Green (8) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
9 assists: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (9) vs. Georgia, 3/9/18
10 assists: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (10) vs. Ole Miss, 2/28/18
11 assists: Isaiah Briscoe (11) at Ole Miss, 12/29/16
12 assists: De'Aaron Fox (12) vs. Stephen F. Austin, 11/11/16
13 assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16
14 assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16
15 assists: John Wall (16) vs. Hartford, 12/29/09
16 assists: John Wall (16) vs. Hartford, 12/29/09
5+ assists in four consecutive games: De'Aaron Fox (6) 11/15/16 - 12/3/16
8+ assists in two consecutive games: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) 3/9/18 - 3/10/18

BLOCKS

4 blocks: PJ Washington (4) vs. Monmouth, 12/9/17
5 blocks: Skal Labissiere (6) vs. Stony Brook, 3/17/16
6 blocks: Skal Labissiere (6) vs. Stony Brook, 3/17/16
7 blocks: Karl-Anthony Towns (7) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/20/15
8 blocks: Willie Cauley-Stein (9) vs. Boise State, 12/10/13
9 blocks: Willie Cauley-Stein (9) vs. Boise State, 12/10/13
10 blocks: Nerlens Noel (12) at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
11 blocks: Nerlens Noel (12) at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
12 blocks: Nerlens Noel (12) at Ole Miss, 1/29/13

STEALS

4 steals: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (4) vs. Fort Wayne, 11/22/17
5 steals: Malik Monk (5) vs. UCLA, 12/3/16
6 steals: Tyler Ulis (6) vs. Ole Miss, 1/2/16
7 steals: Rajon Rondo (8) vs. Mississippi State, 2/19/05
8 steals: Rajon Rondo (8) vs. Mississippi State, 2/19/05

MINUTES

Played every minute: Isaiah Briscoe (45) vs. Georgia, 1/31/17
Played 40+ minutes: Kevin Knox (40) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18
Played more than 50 minutes: Patrick Patterson (50) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/12/08

FOULS

Fouled out: Wenyen Gabriel vs. Tennessee, 3/11/18
Two players fouled out: Jarred Vanderbilt, Wenyen Gabriel, at Texas A&M, 2/10/18
Three players fouled out: Hamidou Diallo, Wenyen Gabriel, Nick Richards at South Carolina, 1/16/18
Four players fouled out: Skal Labissiere, Marcus Lee, Alex Poythress, Derek Willis at Kansas, 1/30/16
Technical foul: Jarred Vanderbilt at Missouri, 2/3/18

TEAM

WINS/LOSSES

Won 10 straight games: 14, 2/7/17 - 3/24/17
Won 20 straight games: 38, 11/14/14 - 3/28/15
Won 30 straight games: 38, 11/14/14 - 3/28/15
Lost consecutive games: 4, 2/3/18 - 2/14/18
Lost three straight games: 4, 2/3/18 - 2/14/18
Lost four straight games: 4, 2/3/18 - 2/14/18
Lost five straight games: 5, 12/23/89 - 1/6/90
Lost 10 straight games: Never

STARTS

Started four freshmen: Hamidou Diallo, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Kevin Knox, Nick Richards, PJ Washington vs. Tennessee, 3/11/18
Started five freshmen: Hamidou Diallo, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Kevin Knox, Nick Richards, PJ Washington vs. Tennessee, 3/11/18

SCORING

Scored 90 or more points: 96 vs. Ole Miss, 2/28/18 (W, 96-78)
Scored 90 or more points (SEC game): 96 vs. Ole Miss, 2/28/18 (W, 96-78)
Scored 100 or more points: 107 vs. UIC, 11/26/17 (W, 107-73)
Scored 100 or more points (SEC game): 100 vs. Texas A&M, 1/3/17 (W, 100-58)
Scored 110 or more points: 115 vs. Arizona State, 11/28/16 (W, 115-69)
Scored 110 or more points (SEC game): 110 vs. Auburn, 2/21/15 (W, 110-75)
Scored 120 or more points: 120 vs. Vanderbilt, 2/7/96 (W, 120-81)
Scored 120 or more points (SEC game): 120 vs. Vanderbilt, 2/7/96 (W, 120-81)
Scored 130 or more points: 143 vs. Georgia, 2/27/56 (W, 143-66)
Scored 140 or more points: 143 vs. Georgia, 2/27/56 (W, 143-66)
Scored 150 or more points: Never
Scored less than 50 points: 48 vs. Vanderbilt, 3/15/13 (L, 64-48)
Scored 100 points in two consecutive games: vs. Cleveland State (11/23/16), vs. UT Martin (11/25/16), vs. Arizona State (11/28/16)
Scored 100 Points in three consecutive games: vs. Cleveland State (11/23/16), vs. UT Martin (11/25/16), vs. Arizona State (11/28/16)
Scored 100 points in consecutive SEC games: 2/27/56-3/3/56

OPPONENT SCORING

Allowed 90 or more points: 100 vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16 (W, 103-100)
Allowed 90 or more points (SEC game): 90 by Georgia, 3/4/09 (L, 90-85)
Allowed 100 or more points: 100 vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16 (W, 103-100)
Allowed 100 or more points (SEC game): 101 by Arkansas, 2/10/93 (L, 101-94)
Allowed less than 50 points: 49 vs. Georgia, 3/9/18 (W, 62-49)
Allowed less than 50 points (SEC game): 48 vs. Georgia, 2/9/16 (W, 82-48)

SHOOTING PERCENTAGES

Shot 70% from the field: .722 vs. Mississippi St., 2/15/86
Shot 65% from the field: .667 vs. UIC, 11/26/17
Shot 30% or less from the field: .281 at Texas A&M (1/10/15)
Allowed 50% shooting: .500 vs. Texas A&M, 1/9/18
Allowed 60% shooting: .640 by Florida, 3/4/07
Allowed 30% or less shooting: .283 by Georgia, 3/9/18 (62-49)
Allowed 20% or less shooting: .197 by Montana State, 11/23/14 (12-61)
Held opponent to zero 3-pointers: at Auburn, 1/19/13 (0-15)

FREE THROWS

Shot 90% or better from FT line: 90.0 (9-10) vs. Wisconsin (4/4/15)
Shot 100% from FT Line: 11-11 vs. Florida, 2/7/12
Shot 50% or less from FT line: .471 (8-17) at Texas A&M, 2/10/18
Attempted 40 FT: vs. Arkansas (40), 1/7/17
Attempted five or less FT: vs. South Carolina (4) 1/21/06
Made 30 FT: 30 vs. Auburn, 3/14/15 (30-35)

3-POINTERS

Hit 10 3-pointers: 12 vs. Alabama, 3/10/18 (12-18)
Hit 11 3-pointers: 12 vs. Alabama, 3/10/18 (12-18)
Hit 12 3-pointers: 12 vs. Alabama, 3/10/18 (12-18)
Hit 13 3-pointers: 13 vs. Texas A&M, 1/3/17 (13-25)
Hit 14 3-pointers: 15 vs. Georgia, 3/1/12 (15-27)
Hit 15 3-pointers: 15 vs. Georgia, 3/1/12 (15-27)
Hit 16 3-pointers: 16 vs. UNC-Asheville, 12/23/96 (16-33)
Hit 17 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 18 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 19 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 20 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 21 3-pointers: 21 vs. North Carolina, 12/27/89 (21-48)
Hit 22 3-pointers: Never

SCORING MARGINS

Won game by 50 points or more: 58 vs. Montana State (W, 86-28) 11/23/14
Won game by 60 points or more: 62 vs. Vanderbilt (W, 106-44) 3/5/03
Won game by 70 points or more: 74 vs. Tennessee-Martin (W, 124-50) 11/26/94
Lost game by 30 points or more: 30 at Tennessee (L, 88-58) 2/16/13
Lost game by 40 points or more: 41 at Vanderbilt (L, 93-52) 2/12/08
Lost game by 50 points or more: 55 at Kansas (L, 150-95) 12/9/89
Lost game by 60 points or more: 70 vs. Central (L, 87-17) 1/28/1910
Lost game by 70 points or more: 70 vs. Central (L, 87-17) 1/28/1910
Game decided by one point: vs. Texas A&M, 1/9/18 (W, 74-73)
Game decided by two points: vs. Tennessee, 2/3/18 (L, 61-59)
Game decided by three points: at LSU, 1/3/18 (W, 74-71)
Two consecutive games decided by one point: vs. North Carolina (W, 73-72) 12/3/11 and at Indiana (L, 73-72) 12/10/11
Three consecutive games decided by one point: Never
Two consecutive games decided by two points: at Ole Miss (L, 71-69) 2/1/11 and Florida (L, 70-68) 2/5/11

Came back from 10-point deficit for win: W, 87-72 at Arkansas (2/20/18); Trailed by 11 at 11-0 (17:71 in 1st)
Came back from 11-point deficit for win: W, 87-72 at Arkansas (2/20/18); Trailed by 11 at 11-0 (17:71 in 1st)
Came back from 12-point deficit for win: W, 83-81 (OT) vs. Vanderbilt (1/30/18); Trailed by 14 at 45-31 (15:23 in 2nd)
Came back from 13-point deficit for win: W, 83-81 (OT) vs. Vanderbilt (1/30/18); Trailed by 14 at 45-31 (15:23 in 2nd)
Came back from 14-point deficit for win: W, 83-81 (OT) vs. Vanderbilt (1/30/18); Trailed by 14 at 45-31 (15:23 in 2nd)
Came back from 15-point deficit for win: W, 83-76 at West Virginia (1/27/18); Trailed by 17 at 40-23 (18:57 in 2nd)
Came back from 16-point deficit for win: W, 83-76 at West Virginia (1/27/18); Trailed by 17 at 40-23 (18:57 in 2nd))
Came back from 17-point deficit for win: W, 83-76 at West Virginia (1/27/18); Trailed by 17 at 40-23 (18:57 in 2nd)
Came back from 18-point deficit for win: W, 73-67 vs. Vanderbilt (2/28/17); Trailed by 19 at 25-6 (8:03 in 1st)
Came back from 19-point deficit for win: W, 73-67 vs. Vanderbilt (2/28/17); Trailed by 19 at 25-6 (8:03 in 1st)
Came back from 20-point deficit for win: W, 82-79 at Vanderbilt (2/22/97); Trailed by 22 at 40-18 (3:51 in 1st)
Came back from 30-point deficit for win: W, 99-95 at LSU (2/15/94); Trailed by 31 at 68-37 (15:34 in 2nd)
Came back from 31-point deficit for win: W, 99-95 at LSU (2/15/94); Trailed by 31 at 68-37 (15:34 in 2nd)

REBOUNDS

Pulled down 50 rebounds: 53 (15-38) vs. Troy, 11/20/17
Pulled down 55 rebounds: 59 (20-39) vs. Arizona State, 11/28/16
Pulled down 60 rebounds: 62 (19-43) vs. Morehead State, 12/16/96

OVERTIME GAMES

Played an overtime game: vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18 (W, 83-81 OT)
Won an overtime game: vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18 (W, 83-81 OT)
Played an SEC overtime game: vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18 (W, 83-81 OT)
Won an SEC overtime game: vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18 (W, 83-81 OT)
Lost an overtime game: at Texas A&M, 2/20/16 (L, 79-77 OT)
Lost an SEC overtime game: at Texas A&M, 2/20/16 (L, 79-77 OT)
Played an overtime game in SEC Tournament: vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16 (W, 82-77 OT)
Won an overtime game in SEC Tournament: vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16 (W, 82-77 OT)
Played two overtimes: at Texas A&M, 1/10/15 (W, 70-64 2ot)
Played three overtimes: vs. Temple 12/7/57 (W, 85-83)
Played four overtimes: Never played four overtime game
Played consecutive games that went to overtime: 1/6/15 vs. Ole Miss (W, 89-86) and 1/10/15 at Texas A&M (70-64)

RUPP ARENA

Year-by-Year Records

Season	W-L	Percetange
2017-18	16-2	.889
2016-17	15-2	.882
2015-16	17-0	1.000
2014-15	19-0	1.000
2013-14	16-2	.889
2012-13	16-2	.889
2011-12	18-0	1.000
2010-11	15-0	1.000
2009-10	18-0	1.000
2008-09	12-6	.667
2007-08	14-4	.778
2006-07	14-2	.875
2005-06	10-5	.667
2004-05	14-1	.933
2003-04	11-2	.846
2002-03	12-1	.923
2001-02	12-3	.800
2000-01	11-1	.917
1999-2000	14-0	1.000
1998-99	12-1	.923
1997-98	9-3	.750
1996-97	12-1	.923
1995-96	13-0	1.000
1994-95	12-1	.923
1993-94	13-1	.929
1992-93	16-0	1.000
1991-92	15-2	.882
1990-91	13-0	1.000
1989-90	13-2	.867
1988-89	8-6	.571
1987-88	14-2	.875
1986-87	13-2	.867
1985-86	18-0	1.000
1984-85	11-3	.786
1983-84	16-0	1.000
1982-83	14-1	.933
1981-82	15-1	.938
1980-81	15-0	1.000
1979-80	12-3	.800
1978-79	11-4	.733
1977-78	16-0	1.000
1976-77	12-2	.857
Total	**577-68**	**.894**

Top 10 All-Time Attendances

No.	Att.	Opp.	Date	Result
1.	24,479	Louisville	1/20/10	W, 71-62
2.	24,468	N. Carolina	12/5/09	W, 68-66
3.	24,465	Florida	2/10/07	L, 64-61
4.	24,459	Florida	2/4/03	W, 70-55
5.	24,432	Louisville	12/17/05	W, 73-61
6.	24,431	Florida	2/25/17	W, 76-66
7.	24,428	Florida	3/7/15	W, 67-50
8.	24,425	Florida	2/15/14	L, 69-59
9.	24,418	Kansas	1/28/17	L, 79-73
10.	24,416	Arkansas	2/28/15	W, 84-67

Top 10 Attendances of 17-18

No.	Att.	Opp.	Date	Result
1.	24,394	Florida	1/20/18	L, 66-64
2.	24,228	Louisville	12/29/17	W, 90-61
3.	23,332	Tennessee	2/6/18	L, 61-59
4.	23,220	Alabama	2/18/18	W, 81-71
5.	23,038	Missouri	2/24/18	W, 87-66
6.	22,922	Harvard	12/2/17	W, 79-70
7.	22,862	Georgia	12/31/17	W, 66-61
8.	22,690	Virginia Tech	12/16/17	W, 93-86
9.	22,643	Texas A&M	1/6/18	W, 74-73
10.	21,108	Ole Miss	2/28/18	W, 96-78

Cats Rock at Rupp

The Wildcats are 577-68 (.895) in Rupp Arena. Among the most notable marks of dominance in the nation's toughest venue to play include:

- A school record 54-game winning streak to begin the John Calipari era
- The Wildcats are 309-42 (.880) in regular-season SEC games in the building
- Kentucky set a new program home record of 19 wins in 2014-15
- The Wildcats have gone undefeated at home in five of John Calipari's nine seasons
- Overall, UK has posted a perfect mark in 13 of Rupp Arena's 42 seasons

Cal Owns Longest Win Streaks in Rupp

With UK's 2011-12 season-opening victory over Marist, UK head coach John Calipari recorded his 34th consecutive win in Rupp Arena as UK's head coach. It broke former UK head coach Rick Pitino's longest streak of 33 games in the venue.

The winning streak reached as long as 54 games. Calipari didn't suffer his first loss in Rupp Arena until losing to Baylor in his fourth season. The 54-game run, however, was his longest career winning streak. He also had the second-longest streak in the arena as the Cats won 42 straight from March 4, 2014 to Nov. 25, 2016.

Pack the House

Kentucky has led the nation in average home attendance in 20 of the last 23 seasons including 2017-18. That number includes a Rupp Arena record of 24,110 in John Calipari's first season (2009-10) as head coach.

- Kentucky averaged 21,875 fans during the 2017-18 season
- UK has averaged 23,000 or more fans in seven of Calipari's nine seasons
- The Wildcats led the nation in average attendance in 2017-18

The Top-Ranked Team at Home

Kentucky has lost just three times at home as the Associated Press top-ranked team in the history of the program and just twice in Rupp Arena. Prior to the loss to UCLA by three on Dec. 3, 2016, the other two losses came by just one point.

The Wildcats are 53-2 all-time as the AP No. 1 team in Rupp Arena since its opening in 1976. The first loss was to Auburn, 53-52, on Jan. 9, 1988.

Coach Cal in Rupp Arena

It's been downright difficult to beat the Wildcats at Rupp Arena during the John Calipari era. UK is 150-8 (.949) at Rupp Arena under Calipari.

- UK is 18-4 (.818) vs. ranked opponents in Rupp in the Calipari era
- The Wildcats are 132-4 (.971) vs. unranked teams in Rupp under Cal
- UK is 77-3 (.963) at home vs. nonconference foes under Calipari
- Calipari notched his 100th career win at Rupp Arena as UK's coach with the Wildcats' 110-75 rout of Auburn on Feb. 21, 2014. It took Calipari just 104 games to reach the century mark at home, the fastest of any UK coach

Cal Passes Hall for Rupp Record

With a 101-70 victory over Cleveland State on Nov. 23, 2016, John Calipari passed former UK head coach Joe B. Hall for wins in Rupp Arena history.

Calipari currently has 150 victories inside the historic venue. Hall won 122.

Rupp Arena Quick Facts

Year Opened:	1976
First Game:	Nov. 27, 1976
All-Time Record:	577-68 (89.4)
Record Under Calipari:	150-8 (95.0)
Capacity:	23,000
Record Crowd:	24,479 (1/20/10)
Longest Winning Streak:	54 (11/9/10-12/1/12)
Current Winning Streak:	3

2017-18 Opponent Breakdown

Utah Valley (Nov. 10)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. Utah Valley: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 73-63 (11/10/17)

Vermont (Nov. 12)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. Vermont: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 73-69 (11/12/17)

ETSU (Nov. 17)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: Four
UK record in Rupp vs. ETSU: 4-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 78-61 (11/17/17)

Troy (Nov. 20)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. Troy: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 70-62 (11/20/17)

Fort Wayne (Nov. 22)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. Fort Wayne: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 86-67 (11/22/17)

UIC (Nov. 26)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. UIC: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 107-73 (11/26/17)

Harvard (Dec. 2)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. Harvard 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 79-70 (12/26/17)

Virginia Tech (Dec. 16)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. Virginia Tech: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 93-86 (12/16/17)

Louisville (Dec. 29)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 19
UK record in Rupp vs. UofL: 15-4
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 90-61 (12/27/17)

Georgia (Dec. 31)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 40
UK record in Rupp vs. UGA: 36-4
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 66-61 (12/31/17)

Texas A&M (Jan. 9)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: Five
UK record in Rupp vs. TAMU: 3-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 74-73 (1/9/18)

Florida (Jan. 20)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 42
UK record in Rupp vs. UF: 34-8
Last time in Rupp Arena: UF, 66-64 (1/20/18)

Mississippi State (Jan. 23)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 29
UK record in Rupp vs. MSU: 27-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 78-65 (1/23/18)

Vanderbilt (Jan. 30)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 40
UK record in Rupp vs. VU: 38-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 83-81^{ot} (1/30/18)

Tennessee (Feb. 6)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 42
UK record in Rupp vs. UT: 37-5
Last time in Rupp Arena: UT, 61-59 (2/6/18)

Alabama (Feb. 17)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 31
UK record in Rupp vs. UA: 25-6
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 81-71 (2/17/18)

Missouri (Feb. 24)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: Four
UK record in Rupp vs. Mizzou: 4-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 87-66 (2/24/18)

Ole Miss (Feb. 28)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 31
UK record in Rupp vs. OM: 30-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 96-78 (2/28/18)

COACH CALIPARI

UK vs. AP Ranked Foes Under Cal

In John Calipari Era (2009-Present)

52-26

vs. No. 13 Tennessee	March 11, 2018	W, 77-72
at No. 10 Auburn	Feb. 14, 2018	L, 76-66
vs. No. 15 Tennessee	Feb. 6, 2018	L, 61-59
at No. 7 West Virginia	Jan. 27, 2018	W, 83-76
at No. 23 Tennessee	Jan. 6, 2018	L, 76-65
vs. No. 4 Kansas (Chicago)	Nov. 14, 2017	L, 65-61
vs. No. 5 North Carolina (NCAA)	March 26, 2017	L, 75-73
vs. No. 8 UCLA (NCAA)	March 24, 2017	W, 86-75
vs. No. 19 Wichita St. (NCAA)	March 19, 2017	W, 65-62
vs. No. 13 Florida	Feb. 25, 2017	W, 76-66
at No. 24 Florida	Feb. 4, 2017	L, 88-66
vs. No. 2 Kansas	Jan. 28, 2017	L, 79-73
vs. No. 24 South Carolina	Jan. 21, 2017	W, 85-69
at No. 10 Louisville	Dec. 21, 2016	L, 73-70
vs. No. 7 North Carolina (Las Vegas)	Dec. 17, 2016	W, 103-100
vs. No. 11 UCLA	Dec. 3, 2016	L, 97-92
vs. No. 13 Michigan St. (New York)	Nov. 15, 2016	W, 69-48
vs. No. 14 Indiana	March 19, 2016	L, 73-67
vs. No. 17 Texas A&M (SECT)	March 13, 2016	W, 82-77
at No. 4 Kansas	Jan. 30, 2016	L, 90-84
vs. No. 16 Louisville	Dec. 27, 2015	W, 75-73
vs. No. 5 Duke (Chicago)	Nov. 17, 2015	W, 74-63
vs. No. 3 Wisconsin (NCAA)	April 4, 2015	L, 71-64
vs. No. 8 Notre Dame (NCAA)	March 28, 2015	W, 68-66
vs. No. 20 W. Virginia (NCAA)	March 26, 2015	W, 78-39
vs. No. 21 Arkansas (SECT)	March 15, 2015	W, 78-63
vs. No. 18 Arkansas	Feb. 28, 2015	W, 84-67
at No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 27, 2014	W, 58-50
vs. No. 21 North Carolina	Dec. 13, 2014	W, 84-70
vs. No. 6 Texas	Dec. 5, 2014	W, 63-51
vs. No. 5 Kansas (Indianapolis)	Nov. 18, 2014	W, 72-40
vs. No. 18 UConn (NCAA)	April 7, 2014	L, 60-54
vs. No. 12 Wisconsin (NCAA)	April 5, 2014	W, 74-73
vs. No. 7 Michigan (NCAA)	March 30, 3014	W, 75-72
vs. No. 5 Louisville (NCAA)	March 28, 2014	W, 74-69
vs. No. 2 Wichita St. (NCAA)	March 23, 2014	W, 78-76
vs. No. 1 Florida (SECT)	March 16, 2014	L, 61-60
at No. 1 Florida	March 8, 2014	L, 84-65
vs. No. 3 Florida	Feb. 15, 2014	L, 69-59
vs. No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 28, 2013	W, 73-66
at No. 18 North Carolina	Dec. 14, 2013	L, 82-77
vs. No. 20 Baylor (Dallas)	Dec. 6, 2013	L, 67-62
vs. No. 2 Michigan St. (Chicago)	Nov. 12, 2013	L, 78-74
vs. No. 11 Florida	March 9, 2013	W, 61-57
at No. 7 Florida	Feb. 12, 2013	L, 69-52
at No. 16 Ole Miss	Jan. 29, 2013	W, 87-74
at No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 29, 2012	L, 80-77
vs. No. 9 Duke (Atlanta)	Nov. 13, 2012	L, 75-68
vs. No. 6 Kansas (NCAA)	April 2, 2012	W, 67-59
vs. No. 17 Louisville (NCAA)	March 31, 2012	W, 69-61
vs. No. 9 Baylor (NCAA)	March 25, 2012	W, 82-70
vs. No. 16 Indiana (NCAA)	March 23, 2012	W, 87-71
vs. No. 22 Florida	March 10, 2012	W, 74-71
at No. 16 Florida	March 4, 2012	W, 74-59
vs. No. 8 Florida	Feb. 7, 2012	W, 78-58
vs. No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 31, 2011	W, 69-62
vs. No. 5 North Carolina	Dec. 3, 2011	W, 73-72
vs. No. 12 Kansas (New York)	Nov. 15, 2011	W, 75-65
vs. No. 9 UConn (NCAA)	April 2, 2011	L, 56-55
vs. No. 7 N. Carolina (NCAA)	March 27, 2011	W, 76-69
vs. No. 1 Ohio State (NCAA)	March 25, 2011	W, 62-60
vs. No. 22 W. Virginia (NCAA)	March 19, 2011	W, 71-63
vs. No. 12 Florida (SECT)	March 13, 2011	W, 70-54
vs. No. 21 Vanderbilt	March 1, 2011	W, 68-66
vs. No. 13 Florida	Feb. 26, 2011	W, 76-68
at No. 21 Vanderbilt	Feb. 12, 2011	L, 81-77
at No. 22 Louisville	Dec. 31, 2010	W, 78-63
vs. No. 23 N. Dame (Louisville)	Dec. 8, 2010	W, 72-58
vs. No. 13 Washington (Maui)	Nov. 23, 2010	W, 74-67
vs. No. 6 W. Virginia (NCAA)	March 27, 2010	L, 73-66
vs. No. 15 Tennessee (SECT)	March 13, 2010	W, 74-45
at No. 19 Tennessee	Feb. 27, 2010	L, 74-65
at No. 17 Vanderbilt	Feb. 20, 2010	W, 58-56
vs. No. 12 Tennessee	Feb. 13, 2010	W, 73-62
vs. No. 25 Ole Miss	Feb. 2, 2010	W, 85-75
vs. No. 21 Vanderbilt	Jan. 30, 2010	W, 85-72
vs. No. 14 UConn (New York)	Dec. 9, 2009	W, 64-61
vs. No. 10 North Carolina	Dec. 5, 2009	W, 68-66

Calipari's Record at UK vs:

vs. No. 1	1-2
vs. Top 3	2-6
vs. Top 5	9-10
vs. Top 10	20-16
vs. Top 15	32-19
vs. Top 20	42-23
vs. Top 25	52-26
Home	18-4
Away	6-11
Neutral	28-11
SEC Tourney	5-1
NCAA Tourney	15-6

Calipari in the NCAA Tournament

John Calipari is entering his 19th NCAA Tournament in 2018. Kentucky is 26-6 (.839) in tournament games under the direction of Calipari. He is 51-17 (.750) as a head coach in NCAA Tournament games.

Calipari-coached teams appeared in four of five Final Fours from 2011 to 2015, the first time that happened since Duke went to five straight Final Fours (1988, 89, 90, 91, 92). Calipari leads the country with five Final Four appearances since 2008. He has advanced teams to six Final Fours in his on-court career, which is tied for the seventh most by a coach all-time. Only three coaches all-time have appeared in four of five Final Fours (Calipari, Mike Krzyzewski and John Wooden).

Of Calipari's 17 eliminations in the NCAA Tournament, he has only lost twice to double-digit seeds. He's never lost to a team seeded lower than 10th.

Calipari to Receive NABC Metropolitan Award at Final Four

Already a Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer, Kentucky men's basketball head coach John Calipari will join another distinguished list when he's awarded the National Association of Basketball Coaches' Metropolitan Award at the Final Four in April.

Calipari has been selected as the 2018 recipient of the storied award and will join basketball legends John Wooden, Dean Smith and Phog Allen, among others, as winners of the award. Kentucky greats Adolph Rupp and C.M. Newton have won the award as well, in 1966 and 1995, respectively.

The award will be presented to Calipari at the annual NABC Guardians of the Game Awards Show on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. ET at the Lila Cockrell Theater in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, site of the 2018 Final Four.

Another Milestone Reached: 700 Victories

With Kentucky's win over UIC on Nov. 26, 2017, John Calipari became just the 39th coach to reach 700 on-court wins, regardless of classification. Only 27 coaches have done it with at least 10 seasons at the Division I level.

Calipari became the fourth-fastest coach to 700 on-court wins ever. Only Adolph Rupp (836 games), Jerry Tarkanian (876 games) and Roy Williams (879 games) did it faster.

Moving Up the Kentucky Career Wins List

With a 78-65 victory vs. Mississippi State on Jan. 23, John Calipari notched his 264th career win at Kentucky, moving him past Tubby Smith, who finished his UK career with a 263-83 mark. Calipari trails only the legendary Adolph Rupp (876 wins) and Joe B. Hall (297) for most wins at Kentucky. Calipari currently has 273 wins at Kentucky.

Although he's still climbing the charts, he's doing it faster than anyone else in school history. With a thrilling 75-73 victory over rival Louisville on Dec. 26, 2015, John Calipari captured his 200th career win at Kentucky faster than any coach in UK history -- and nearly faster than anyone has ever done it at any school.

Calipari reached the 200-win plateau in his 240th career game at Kentucky. Rick Pitino, previously the fastest to 200 wins at UK prior to Calipari, didn't capture his 200th Wildcat win until his 249th game. Rupp reached 200 during his 250th game.

Not only did Calipari reach the 200-win mark in record pace at Kentucky, he also nearly set the all-time Division I mark. With the win over U of L, he became the second-fastest Division I men's basketball coach to reach 200 victories at a single school, behind only LIU-Brooklyn's Clair Bee, who achieved the feat in 231 games.

Calipari is one of just 11 head coaches in Division I men's basketball history with at least 200 victories at two different schools and just the fifth coach at Kentucky to reach the 200-win plateau. He's currently the only coach in NCAA history with at least 189 victories at three different schools.

Calipari reached his 250th career win at Kentucky with a 73-63 come-from-behind victory vs. Utah Valley for the 2017-18 season opener. Calipari reached 250 wins at UK faster than any other Wildcat coach. It took Rupp 312 games to reach 250 wins, whereas it took Calipari just 303.

First-Ballot Hall of Famer

Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari joined basketball's fraternity of legends in September 2015 after being elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on the first ballot.

Calipari joined an elite group of basketball players and coaches in the Naismith Hall of Fame, considered to be one of the ultimate honors in the sport. The Class of 2015 included Calipari, Dick Bevetta, Wildcat Louie Dampier, Lindsay Gaze, Tom Heinsohn, John Isaacs, Spencer Haywood, Lisa Leslie, Dikembe Mutombo, George Raveling and JoJo White.

Calipari in Elite Company with Conference Championships

Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari added another first to his Hall of Fame career in 2017.

When Kentucky clinched at least a share of the 2017 Southeastern Conference championship by beating Vanderbilt on Feb. 28, 2017, he made history as a head coach. Calipari is the first NCAA Division I coach to lead three different programs (UMass, Memphis, Kentucky) to five on-court regular-season league titles five different times. He won the Atlantic 10 at the helm of UMass in 1992, 93, 94, 95 and 96. Memphis claimed the Conference USA crown in 2004, 06, 07, 08 and 09. Kentucky has captured the SEC five times in 2010, 12, 15, 16 and 17.

Perhaps more impressive is that Calipari has 30 combined regular-season and tournament championships after the 2018 SEC Tournament title. That trails only Mark Few of Gonzaga (32 titles) among all active coaches. All-time, Calipari trails only the great Adolph Rupp (41) and Few.

There's No Place Like Home

Since the 2000-01 season, John Calipari-coached teams have posted a 303-27 (.918) record at home. At UK, Coach Cal is 150-8 (.949) in Rupp Arena.

In five of Calipari's eight full seasons at Kentucky, the Wildcats have posted an undefeated record at home, including a school-record 19-0 mark during the 2014-15 season.

Calipari owns both of UK's longest winning streaks in the arena. He began his career at UK with a 54-game winning streak at Rupp Arena. It was the longest winning streak since the arena opened in 1976. With a win over Georgia on Feb. 9, 2016, he secured the second-longest streak in the storied building at 34 games (which ended at 42).

	Coach	Streak (Yrs)
1.	***John Calipari***	***54 (2010-13)***
2.	***John Calipari***	***42 (2014-17)***
3.	Rick Pitino	33 (1992-94)
4.	Joe B. Hall	30 (1981-82)
5.	Rick Pitino	27 (1995-97)

AHEAD OF THE BARON OF THE BLUEGRASS

• Legendary coach Adolph Rupp won 876 career games while he was the coach of UK. He also led Kentucky to five NCAA titles during his 41-year tenure.

• John Calipari is ahead of the pace set by the legend as far as victories to begin his career at UK. Calipari (.813) is slightly behind Rupp (.822) in total UK career winning percentage.

Coach	Games	Record	Next Game (337th Game)
John Calipari	336	273-63	vs. Davidson (March 15, 2018)
Adolph Rupp	336	271-65	def. Vanderbilt 59-37 (Feb. 4, 1946)
Tubby Smith	336	259-77	lost to Tennessee 89-85 (Feb. 13, 2007)
Joe B. Hall	336	254-82	def. BYU 93-59 (Dec. 17, 1983)
Rick Pitino	270	220-50	End of UK coaching career at 270th game

COACH CALIPARI

UK vs. AP Ranked Foes Under Cal

Record as AP Top-Ranked Coach Since 2009-10

Coach	Schools	Records
1. John Calipari	Kentucky	69-7
2. Mike Krzyzewski	Duke	39-6
3. Bill Self	Kansas	39-7
4. Jay Wright	Villanova	28-6
5. Jim Boeheim	Syracuse	15-4
6. Tom Crean	Indiana	14-3
7. Thad Matta	Ohio State	13-2
8. Sean Miller	Arizona	12-1
9. Billy Donovan	Florida	11-1
10. Mark Few	Gonzaga	10-2

Record as AP Top-Ranked Coach Active

Coach	Schools	Records
1. Mike Krzyzewski	Duke	205-30
2. John Calipari	UK, Memphis, UMass	110-12
3. Roy Williams	UNC, Kansas	95-18
4. Bill Self	Kansas	41-8
5. Bruce Weber	Illinois	30-2
6. Jay Wright	Villanova	28-6
7. Jim Boeheim	Syracuse	24-5
8. Thad Matta	Ohio State	22-3
9. Bob Huggins	Cincinnati	20-4
10. Tom Crean	Indiana	14-3

through games on March 11, 2018

Life Away From Home Isn't So Bad Either

As good as John Calipari's team's have been at home, they're pretty good in hostile environments on the road. Dating back to the 2005-06 season, Calipari has recorded an 92-43 (.681) record on the road.

At neutral-site venues, Kentucky is 70-16 all-time under Calipari.

Calipari at No. 1

John Calipari is one of just two coaches (Frank McGuire) to lead three programs to a No. 1 ranking. With UK's No. 1 ranking in 2016-17, Calipari has guided six of his last eight and seven of his last 10 teams to the No. 1 ranking (and the ninth time he's done it overall).

When Coach Cal's teams have been at the top, they've been difficult to knock off:

- Calipari is 110-12 (.902) as the top-ranked Associated Press Top 25 coach in the country
- He's 69-7 (.908) when his team is at the top of the AP Top 25 as UK's head coach
- Calipari tallied a 32-4 mark at UMass when the Minutemen were No. 1 and he was 9-1 at Memphis when he had the Tigers at the pinnacle of the rankings
- Calipari (110) trails only Duke's Mike Krzyzewski (205) in active coaches with victories at No. 1
- Calipari has coached 122 career games as a No. 1 team, the fourth most in NCAA history, trailing Krzyzewski (235), John Wooden (228) and Adolph Rupp (131)
- Among coaches who have owned a No. 1 ranking in at least 119 games, Calipari's winning percentage of .902 trails only Wooden (.952) and is ahead of active coach Krzyzewski (.872)

Calipari Unrivaled in Conference

John Calipari has won 15 league regular-season championships (including the 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2017 SEC championships) seven more than the next-closest coach in the SEC (Bruce Pearl has eight conference titles). With a 2018 SEC Tournament championship -- Calipari's fourth straight and sixth at UK -- he owns 15 conference tournament titles, 10 more than his closest competitor (Ben Howland).

He's tallied a 329-101 (.765) all-time record within conference play as a head coach and owns a 121-35 (.776) record since joining the SEC.

Although he's been publicly outspoken against conference tournaments -- only because he doesn't favor playing three or more games on consecutive days to win the tournament -- his teams have gotten up for them. Calipari's teams at UMass, Memphis and Kentucky have been to 19 conference championship games in his 26-year career, winning a remarkable 15 of them.

30 is the new 20: Calipari Secures Another 20-Win Season

With an 87-66 win over Missouri on Feb. 24, John Calipari achieved another feat in his decorated coaching career. With his 20th victory in 2018, he secured his 24th consecutive 20-win season. He leads all active coaches with that streak, ahead of Mike Krzyzewski (22) and Bill Self (20) who both also claimed a 20-win season this year.

With a first-round win over Northern Kentucky in the 2017 NCAA Tournament, Calipari and the Cats clinched a 30-win season for the fourth time in his eight seasons as head coach. Calipari has 10 seasons with 30 or more on-court wins. Only Krzyzewski (13) and Roy Williams (11) have more 30-win seasons as an active head coach. Calipari is the first coach in NCAA Division I history to record five straight on-court 30-win seasons, notching 30 wins in consecutive seasons from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

The Success Rate

John Calipari has graduated 100 percent of the players (17 of 17) who have been eligible to receive their diploma by the end of their senior years and exhausted their athletic eligibility. Of that group, Patrick Patterson, Jarrod Polson and Alex Poythress completed their degrees in three years. Redshirt junior Dillon Pulliam is slated to graduate in May of 2018.

In the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate, which measures eligibility, retention and graduation, UK has posted a single-year Academic

All-Time Calipari Draft Picks

Player (School)	Round	Year (Overall)
Bam Adebayo (UK)	First	2017 (14)
Eric Bledsoe (UK)	First	2010 (18)
Devin Booker (UK)	First	2015 (13)
Antonio Burks (MEM)	Second	2004 (36)
Marcus Camby (UMASS)	First	1996 (2)
Rodney Carney (MEM)	First	2006 (16)
DeMarcus Cousins (UK)	First	2010 (5)
Willie Cauley-Stein (UK)	First	2015 (6)
Anthony Davis (UK)	First	2012 (1)
Joey Dorsey (MEM)	Second	2008 (33)
C. Douglas-Roberts (MEM)	Second	2008 (40)
Robert Dozier (MEM)	Second	2009 (60)
Tyreke Evans (MEM)	First	2009 (4)
De'Aaron Fox (UK)	First	2017 (5)
Archie Goodwin (UK)	First	2013 (29)
Josh Harrellson (UK)	Second	2011 (45)
Andrew Harrison (UK)	Second	2015 (44)
Dakari Johnson (UK)	Second	2015 (48)
Terrence Jones (UK)	First	2012 (18)
Enes Kanter (UK)	First	2011 (3)
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (UK)	First	2012 (2)
Brandon Knight (UK)	First	2011 (8)
Skal Labissiere (UK)	First	2016 (28)
Doron Lamb (UK)	Second	2012 (42)
DeAndre Liggins (UK)	Second	2011 (53)
Trey Lyles (UK)	First	2015 (12)
Darius Miller (UK)	Second	2012 (46)
Malik Monk (UK)	First	2017 (11)
Jamal Murray (UK)	First	2016 (7)
Nerlens Noel (UK)	First	2013 (6)
Daniel Orton (UK)	First	2010 (29)
Patrick Patterson (UK)	First	2010 (14)
Julius Randle (UK)	First	2014 (7)
Lou Roe (UMass)	Second	1995 (30)
Derrick Rose (MEM)	First	2008 (1)
Marquis Teague (UK)	First	2012 (29)
Karl-Anthony Towns (UK)	First	2015 (1)
Tyler Ulis (UK)	Second	2016 (34)
Dajuan Wagner (MEM)	First	2002 (6)
John Wall (UK)	First	2010 (1)
Shawne Williams (MEM)	First	2006 (17)
James Young (UK)	First	2014 (17)

UK Collegiate Awards Under Calipari

All-America Honors

DeMarcus Cousins (2010)
AP (1), NABC (2), USBWA (2), SN (2)

John Wall (2010)
AP (1), NABC (2), USBWA (2), SN (2)

Anthony Davis (2012)
AP (1), NABC (2), USBWA (2), SN (2)

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (2012)
AP (3), USBWA (2), NABC (3), SN (2)

Julius Randle (2014)
NABC (3)

Willie Cauley-Stein (2015)
NABC (1), USBWA (1), SN (1)

Karl-Anthony Towns (2015) *SN (3)*

Tyler Ulis (2016)
AP (1), SN (1), USBWA (2), NABC (2)

Malik Monk (2017)
SN (2), USBWA (2), NABC (2), AP (2)

SEC Player of the Year

John Wall	2010 (Coaches/AP)
Anthony Davis	2012 (Coaches/AP)
Tyler Ulis	2016 (Coaches/AP)
Malik Monk	2017 (AP)

SEC Defensive Player of the Year

Anthony Davis	2012 (Coaches)
Nerlens Noel	2013 (Coaches)
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015 (Coaches)
Tyler Ulis	2016 (Coaches)

SEC Freshman(Coaches)/Newcomer(AP) of the Year

DeMarcus Cousins	2010 (Coaches)
John Wall	2010 (AP)
Terrence Jones	2011 (Coaches/AP)
Anthony Davis	2012 (Coaches/AP)
Nerlens Noel	2013 (Coaches/AP)
Julius Randle	2014 (Coaches/AP)
Karl-Anthony Towns	2015 (Coaches/AP)
Malik Monk	2017 (Coaches/AP)
Kevin Knox	2018 (Coaches)

SEC Sixth Man of the Year

Darius Miller	2012 (Coaches)
Kyle Wiltjer	2013 (Coaches)
Devin Booker	2015 (Coaches)

CoSIDA Academic All-America

Alex Poythress (2nd)	2016

All-SEC

D. Cousins (2010)	1st (Coaches/AP)
P. Patterson (2010)	1st (Coaches)/2nd (AP)
John Wall (2010)	1st (Coaches/AP)
T. Jones (2011)	1st (Coaches/AP)
B. Knight (2011)	1st (Coaches)/2nd (AP)
Anthony Davis (2012)	1st (Coaches/AP)
M. Kidd-Gilchrist (2012)	1st (Coaches/AP)
T. Jones (2012)	2nd (Coaches/AP)
Doron Lamb (2012)	2nd (Coaches)
Nerlens Noel (2013)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Julius Randle (2014)	1st (Coaches/AP)
James Young (2014)	2nd (Coaches)
Devin Booker (2015)	2nd (Coaches)
W. Cauley-Stein (2015)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Aa. Harrison (2015)	2nd (Coaches/AP)
K. Towns (2015)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Tyler Ulis (2016)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Jamal Murray (2016)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Malik Monk (2017)	1st (Coaches/AP)
De'Aaron Fox (2017)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Bam Adebayo (2017)	2nd (Coaches/AP)
Kevin Knox (2018)	1st (Coaches)
S. G.-Alexander (2018)	2nd (Coaches)

All-SEC Defensive Team

Patrick Patterson	2010
DeAndre Liggins	2011
Anthony Davis	2012
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	2012
Nerlens Noel	2013
Willie Cauley-Stein	2013
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015
Tyler Ulis	2016

Coaches' All-SEC Freshman Team

Eric Bledsoe	2010
DeMarcus Cousins	2010
John Wall	2010
Brandon Knight	2011
Terrence Jones	2011
Doron Lamb	2011
Anthony Davis	2012
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	2012
Willie Cauley-Stein	2013
Archie Goodwin	2013
Nerlens Noel	2013
Alex Poythress	2013
Julius Randle	2014
James Young	2014
Devin Booker	2015
Trey Lyles	2015
Karl-Anthony Towns	2015
Tyler Ulis	2015
Jamal Murray	2016
Malik Monk	2017
De'Aaron Fox	2017
Bam Adebayo	2017
Kevin Knox	2018
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	2018

NCAA Final Four Team

Anthony Davis (MVP)	2012
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	2012
Doron Lamb	2012
Julius Randle	2014
James Young	2014

NCAA Regional Tournament

DeMarcus Cousins	2010
John Wall	2010
Josh Harrellson	2011
B. Knight (MVP)	2011
DeAndre Liggins	2011
M. Kidd-Gilchrist (MVP)	2012
Anthony Davis	2012
Doron Lamb	2012
Aaron Harrison	2014
Marcus Lee	2014
Julius Randle (MVP)	2014
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015
Andrew Harrison	2015
K. Towns (MVP)	2015
De'Aaron Fox	2017
Isaac Humphries	2017

SEC All-Tournament Team

John Wall	2010
Eric Bledsoe	2010
DeMarcus Cousins	2010
Darius Miller	2011
Brandon Knight	2011
Josh Harrellson	2011
Anthony Davis	2012
Terrence Jones	2012
Aaron Harrison	2014
Julius Randle	2014
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015
Aaron Harrison	2015
Andrew Harrison	2015
Jamal Murray	2016
Tyler Ulis	2016
Bam Adebayo	2017
De'Aaron Fox	2017
Dominique Hawkins	2017
Wenyen Gabriel	2018
S. Gilgeous-Alexander	2018
Kevin Knox	2018

SEC Tournament MVP

John Wall	2010
Darius Miller	2011
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015
Tyler Ulis	2016
De'Aaron Fox	2017
S. Gilgeous-Alexander	2018

COACH CALIPARI

Progress Rate of 977 or higher in every season under Calipari, including a perfect 1,000 in the last four single-year reports. Kentucky's four-year composite score in the most recent report, which was released in May, was a 1,000, earning the team an NCAA academic award for the third year in a row for finishing in the top 10 percent of Division I men's basketball programs.

Under Calipari, the Wildcats routinely post a 3.0 grade-point average or better.

Dream Maker

As someone who prides himself on helping young men reach their dreams, Coach Cal has helped 42 players get selected in the NBA Draft during his college coaching career, including 31 over his first eight seasons at Kentucky, which is more than any other coach.

- Four No. 1 overall selections (Derrick Rose, John Wall, Anthony Davis and Karl-Anthony Towns) during the nine drafts from 2008 to 2016. No other coach has more than two No. 1 picks
- In 2010, five of his UK players were selected in the first round for the first time in NBA history
- His six players in the 2012 and 2015 NBA drafts are the most in the two-round era
- Churned out 31 NBA Draft picks, 24 first-rounders, three No. 1 overall selections, seven top-five picks and 17 lottery picks at Kentucky
- Of the 49 players who have finished their college careers at Kentucky under Calipari, 31 have been selected in the NBA Draft (63.3 percent)
- Of the 21 players at UK who have declared for the NBA Draft after their freshman seasons, all 21 have been first-round picks. He is 25 for 25 in that regard when including his players from Memphis
- Dating back to the 2008 draft, 36 players under Coach Cal have been taken in the NBA Draft, including 26 first-rounders
- Only coach to produce the top two picks in the same draft (2012 - Anthony Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist)
- Produced a top-10 pick in 10 straight drafts since 2008. No other school has had a first-rounder in each of the last nine drafts

Developing Talent

John Calipari hasn't just signed the best talent in the country while he's been at Kentucky; he's been the best at developing that talent and getting it ready for the next level.

Of the 27 top-25 Rivals.com players Kentucky has signed and have completed their college eligibility, 24 were drafted and 21 were selected in the first round. Those draft numbers don't include Wenyen Gabriel, Sacha Killeya-Jones, transfers or the 2017 class, all of whom are still in school.

But that's only half the story. Calipari's players don't just make it to the pros; they're better prepared than anyone else. The proof is in the numbers.

Over the course of his career, Calipari's more than 45 NBA pros have nearly $1.5 billion in NBA contracts alone, which doesn't include endorsement deals and overseas contracts. Of his UK players in the NBA, they've earned more than $1 billion in guaranteed contracts.

Double-Digit Win Streaks

Kentucky's 38-game winning streak in 2014-15 was historic, but it wasn't completely out of the norm for John Calipari. With UK's 14-game winning streak at the end of the 2016-17 season, Calipari has 18 streaks in his career where his teams have won 10 or more consecutive games during the season.

They've won 15 or more straight games nine times, 20 or more six times, 25 or more five times, and 30 or more one time. Kentucky 14-game winning streak before its season-ending loss last season was its longest since the 38-game winning streak in 2014-15.

1. 38 Kentucky, 2014-15
2. 27 Memphis, 2008-09
3. 26 Memphis, 2007-08
   26 UMass, 1995-96
5. 25 Memphis, 2006-07
6. 24 Kentucky, 2011-12
7. 19 Kentucky, 2009-10
8. 16 UMass, 1994-95
9. 15 Memphis, 2005-06
10. 14 Kentucky, 2016-17
    14 UMass, 1991-92
12. 12 Memphis, 2007-08
    12 Memphis, 2002-03
    12 UMass, 1992-93
15. 11 Memphis, 2003-04
16. 10 Memphis, 2001-02
    10 UMass, 1993-94
    10 Kentucky, 2010-11

Calipari Knows Defense

John Calipari's 2014-15 Kentucky Wildcat team was heralded as one of the best defensive teams ever. However, defense has always been a staple of Calipari-coached teams. Dating back to complete NCAA records beginning in 2001-02, Calipari's teams have been among national leaders in several critical defensive categories.

Year	FG % Def.	Rebound Margin	Scoring Margin	Blocks
2001-02 (UM)	13th (39.5)	11th (+6.6)	15th (+11.2)	54th (4.4)
2002-03 (UM)	28th (40.6)	44th (+4.1)	32nd (+8.0)	26th (5.1)
2003-04 (UM)	34th (40.5)	58th (+3.4)	48th (+7.1)	20th (5.0)
2004-05 (UM)	***4th (38.4)***	75th (+2.9)	62nd (+5.9)	13th (5.4)
2005-06 (UM)	***2nd (38.0)***	***9th (+6.7)***	***5th (+14.6)***	***8th (6.4)***
2006-07 (UM)	12th (39.0)	28th (+5.3)	***5th (+5.8)***	12th (5.9)
2007-08 (UM)	12th (39.1)	16th (+6.2)	***2nd (+18.0)***	***8th (6.1)***
2008-09 (UM)	***1st (37.1)***	19th (+6.1)	***2nd (+16.3)***	***7th (6.0)***
2009-10 (UK)	***3rd (37.8)***	***4th (+8.1)***	***6th (+14.3)***	***4th (7.2)***
2010-11 (UK)	15th (39.4)	60th (+3.6)	13th (+11.4)	***3rd (6.3)***
2011-12 (UK)	***1st (37.4)***	12th (+6.8)	***1st (+16.8)***	***1st (8.6)***
2012-13 (UK)	30th (39.2)	48th (+4.3)	48th (+8.2)	***3rd (6.6)***
2013-14 (UK)	59th (41.1)	***2nd (+9.4)***	43rd (+8.2)	13th (5.9)
2014-15 (UK)	***1st (35.4)***	15th (+6.8)	***1st (+20.1)***	***2nd (6.9)***
2015-16 (UK)	24th (39.7)	39th (+5.2)	17th (+11.4)	***6th (5.8)***
2016-17 (UK)	98th (42.4)	39th (+4.7)	***9th (+13.4)***	15th (5.3)
2017-18 (UK)	24th (40.7)	43rd (+4.9)	74th (+6.5)	28th (4.8)

Former Players' NBA Awards

NBA Player of the Year
Derrick Rose 2011

NBA Rookie of the Year
Karl-Anthony Towns 2016
Tyreke Evans 2010
Derrick Rose 2009

NBA Defensive Player of the Year
Marcus Camby 2007

NBA Cares Community Assist Award
DeMarcus Cousins 2017
John Wall 2016

All-NBA Team
Anthony Davis (1st) 2017
John Wall (3rd) 2017
DeMarcus Cousins (2nd) 2016
Anthony Davis (1st) 2015
DeMarcus Cousins (2nd) 2015
Derrick Rose (1st) 2012
Derrick Rose (1st) 2011

All-NBA Rookie Team
Jamal Murray (2nd) 2017
K. Towns (1st) 2016
Devin Booker (1st) 2016
W.Cauley-Stein (2nd) 2016
Nerlens Noel (1st) 2015
Anthony Davis (1st) 2013
M. Kidd-Gilchrist (2nd) 2013
Brandon Knight (1st) 2012
D. Cousins (1st) 2011
John Wall (1st) 2011
Eric Bledsoe (2nd) 2011
Tyreke Evans (1st) 2010
Derrick Rose (1st) 2010
Marcus Camby (1st) 1997

All-NBA Defensive Team
Anthony Davis (2nd) 2017
Anthony Davis (2nd) 2015
John Wall (2nd) 2015
Marcus Camby (1st) 2008
Marcus Camby (1st) 2007
Marcus Camby (2nd) 2006
Marcus Camby (2nd) 2005

NBA All-Star Team
DeMarcus Cousins 2018
Anthony Davis 2018
Karl-Anthony Towns 2018
John Wall 2018
DeMarcus Cousins 2017
Anthony Davis 2017
John Wall 2017
DeMarcus Cousins 2016
Anthony Davis 2016
John Wall 2016
DeMarcus Cousins 2015
Anthony Davis 2015
John Wall 2015
Anthony Davis 2014
John Wall 2014
Derrick Rose 2012
Derrick Rose 2011
Derrick Rose 2010

All-Star Game MVP
Anthony Davis 2017

Rising Stars Challenge MVP
Jamal Murray 2017
John Wall 2011
Tyreke Evans 2010

Slam Dunk Contest Winner
John Wall 2014

Three-Point Contest Winner
Devin Booker 2018

Skills Challenge Winner
Karl-Antony Towns 2016

Recruiting Trail

The Wildcats have signed more top-25 players under John Calipari's leadership than any other school. Nearly a quarter of all Rivals' top-10 prospects nationally over the past nine classes have signed with Coach Cal and the Cats.

Player (Year)	ESPN	Rivals	247	MCD	JB
Tyler Herro ('18)	27	38	40		Y
Keldon Johnson ('18)	7	18	11	Y	Y
Immanuel Quickley ('18)	12	10	13	Y	
Jemarl Baker ('17)	66	82	90		
Hamidou Diallo ('17)	11~	10~	11		
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander ('17)	35	34	20		
Quade Green ('17)	24	22	33	Y	Y
Kevin Knox ('17)	10	10	18	Y	Y
Nick Richards ('17)	17	17	15	Y	Y
Jarred Vanderbilt ('17)	19	14	12	Y	Y
PJ Washington ('17)	12	15	9	Y	Y
Bam Adebayo ('16)	5	7	12	Y	Y
Brad Calipari ('16)	NR	NR	NR		
De'Aaron Fox ('16)	6	6	6	Y	Y
Wenyen Gabriel ('16)	14	13	14		Y
Sacha Killeya-Jones ('16)	24	24	25	Y	
Malik Monk ('16)	9	9	10	Y	Y
Tai Wynyard ('16)	NR	NR	NR		
Isaiah Briscoe ('15)	13	10	16	Y	Y
Jonny David ('15)	NR@	NR@	NR@		
Isaac Humphries ('15)	49	NR^	62		
Skal Labissiere ('15)	2	1	2		Y
Charles Matthews ('15)	42	48	74		Y
Jamal Murray ('15)	NA^	9	10		
Dillon Pulliam ('15)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Devin Booker ('14)	18	29	22	Y	Y
Trey Lyles ('14)	6	13	17	Y	Y
Karl-Anthony Towns ('14)	9	5	2	Y	Y
Tyler Ulis ('14)	25	21	20	Y	Y
EJ Floreal ('13)	NR@	NR@	NR@		
Aaron Harrison ('13)	9	7	5	Y	Y
Andrew Harrison ('13)	5	5	3	Y	Y
Dominique Hawkins ('13)	NR	NR	151		
Dakari Johnson ('13)	7	9	8	Y	Y
Marcus Lee ('13)	25	19	14	Y	Y
Julius Randle ('13)	3	2	2	Y	Y
Derek Willis ('13)	NR	115	58		
James Young ('13)	8	11	10	Y	Y
Archie Goodwin ('12)	15	14	18	Y	Y
Willie Cauley-Stein ('12)	40	40	47		
Tod Lanter ('12)	NA#@	NA#@	NA#@		
Julius Mays ('12)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Nerlens Noel ('12)	1	2	1		Y
Alex Poythress ('12)	13	8	7	Y	Y
Twany Beckham ('11)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Anthony Davis ('11)	1	2	1	Y	Y
Ryan Harrow ('11)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
M. Kidd-Gilchrist ('11)	4	3	2	Y	Y
Sam Malone ('11)	NR@	NR@	NR@		
Brian Long ('11)	NR@	NR@	NR@		
Marquis Teague ('11)	8	5	6	Y	Y
Kyle Wiltjer ('11)	19	22	21	Y	Y
Terrence Jones ('10)	9	13	8*	Y	Y
Enes Kanter ('10)	25	3	3*		
Brandon Knight ('10)	4	6	6*	Y	Y
Doron Lamb ('10)	29	21	28*	Y	Y
Jarrod Polson ('10)	NR@	NR@	NR*@		
Stacey Poole, Jr. ('10)	51	33	67*		
Eloy Vargas ('10)	NA#	NA#	NA*#		
Eric Bledsoe ('09)	NR	23	37*		
DeMarcus Cousins ('09)	4	2	3*	Y	Y
Darnell Dodson ('09)	NA#	NA#	NA*#		
Jon Hood ('09)	92	40	46*		
Daniel Orton ('09)	13	22	17*		Y
John Wall ('09)	5	1	2*		Y
Top-10 Players	**21**	**23**	**21**		
Top-25 Players	**38**	**40**	**39**		
Top-50 Players	**44**	**47**	**45**		

McDonald's All-Americans 32
Jordan Brand Classic All-Americans 37

* Scout.com ranking | ~ final ranking in the 2017 class before early enrollment | ^ reclassified after final rankings were released | # transfer | @ joined team as walk-on

COACH CALIPARI

A "players-first" coach with a penchant for helping people reach their dreams, John Calipari, a Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer, has guided six teams to the Final Four, led one to a national championship and helped 42 players get selected in the NBA Draft during his 26-year college coaching career.

Calipari guided Kentucky to its eighth national championship and his first national title in 2012. In becoming only the second coach in NCAA history to lead three different schools to the Final Four, he has racked up more than 700 on-court victories, 18 NCAA Tournament appearances, six Final Fours and numerous national coach of the year honors.

In 2015, Coach Cal led college basketball's first ever 38-0 team, and became one of just three coaches to make four Final Fours in a five-year span. At the end of the season, Calipari became the 96th coach to join the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

While building a program out of obscurity at Massachusetts, laying the foundation at Memphis and restoring luster at the sport's greatest program at Kentucky, he has totaled the second-most wins in NCAA history in the first 20 years of a college coaching career.

Quite honestly, though, Calipari's on-court success overshadows a much more significant picture.

In his goal to lead a players-first program, he has helped 42 players realize their dreams and guided them to NBA Draft selections, including a record five first-round draft picks in 2010. Two years later, six Wildcats heard their names called at the 2012 draft, the most in the two-round draft era. UK, with Calipari's help, would tie those six picks again in 2015, including a record-tying four lottery selections. His four No. 1 overall picks are twice as many as any other coach, and he's had 31 players drafted during his first eight years at Kentucky, including 24 first-round picks.

Calipari's players have entered the league NBA-ready. He's coached an MVP, four All-NBA players, three Rookie of the Year winners, five NBA All-Stars, an All-Star Game MVP and 11 players from Calipari's first seven teams at Kentucky have made the NBA All-Rookie teams.

Much like he did at UMass, where his players graduated at nearly 80 percent, Calipari has stressed academics. Fifteen of his last 18 seniors at Memphis earned their bachelor's degrees, and all 17 players at UK who were eligible to graduate by the end of their senior years walked away with a diploma in hand, including three players who earned their degree in just three years. Another Wildcat, Dillon Pulliam, is set to graduate in May of 2018. Calipari's teams routinely have posted a combined team grade-point averages of 3.0 or better.

His foundation, The Calipari Foundation, has raised millions of dollars to help the lives of those in need in the Commonwealth and across the country. In 2010, he used a telethon to raise more than $1 million for victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. He organized another one in 2012 for victims of Superstorm Sandy and another one in 2017 for victims of Hurricane Harvey.

In 2013, Calipari developed the idea of hosting an annual alumni weekend around his basketball fantasy experience with the intent to raise money for charity. After generating $350,000 for selected organizations and charities during the inaugural game, the weekend (the game and the fantasy experience) has generated more than $1 million for charity every year since, including in 2014 without the funds from an alumni game and 2016 with a celebrity softball game in place of the traditional basketball game.

In 2017, Coach Cal was named the head coach of the 2017 USA Basketball Men's U19 World Cup Team, which finished third at the 2017 FIBA U19 World Cup in Cairo.

Author of five books, including the New York Times Best Seller "Players First: Coaching from the Inside Out," Calipari is a master of communication and maximizing talent. He lives by the motto that "it's never a matter of how far you have fallen, but instead it's about how high you bounce back."

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: Feb. 10, 1959 | **Wife:** Ellen
Children: Erin, Megan, Brad

Education
Clarion State (1982)

Head Coaching Experience
University of Massachusetts (1989-96)
New Jersey Nets (NBA) (1997-99)
University of Memphis (2001-09)
University of Kentucky (2010-present)

COACHING AWARDS

- 2018 NABC Metropolitan Award
- 2015 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee
- 2015 AP National Coach of the Year
- 2015 Naismith National Coach of the Year
- 2015 NABC National Coach of the Year
- 2015 The Sporting News National Coach of the Year
- 2015 Adolph Rupp National Coach of the Year
- 2015 SEC Coach of the Year (AP/Coaches)
- 2015 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year
- 2012 Nell & John Wooden Coach of the Year Leadership Award
- 2012 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2012 SEC Coach of the Year (AP/Coaches)
- 2010 Adolph Rupp National Coach of the Year
- 2010 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2010 SEC Coach of the Year (AP)
- 2010 *Sporting News* SEC Coach of the Year
- 2010 Yahoo! Sports SEC Coach of the Year
- 2010 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year
- 2009 NABC National Co-Coach of the Year
- 2009 *Sports Illustrated* National Coach of the Year
- 2009 Phelan National Coach of the Year
- 2009 Iba National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2009 C-USA Coach of the Year
- 2008 Naismith National Coach of the Year
- 2008 C-USA Coach of the Year
- 2008 Iba National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2008 Phelan National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2007 Phelan National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2007 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year
- 2007 *Basketball Times* South Region Coach of the Year
- 2006 C-USA Coach of the Year
- 2004 NABC District 7 Coach of the Year
- 1996 Naismith National Coach of the Year
- 1996 NABC National Coach of the Year
- 1996 *The Sporting News* National Coach of the Year
- 1996 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
- 1995 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 1994 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 1994 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
- 1993 USBWA District I Coach of the Year
- 1993 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
- 1992 Eastern Basketball Coach of the Year

COACH CALIPARI

NCAA DIVISION I ACTIVE WINNINGEST COACHES

(On-Court By Percentage - Min. 10 yrs. at Division I level)

NO.	COACH/TEAM	YRS.	PCT.
1.	Mark Few/Gonzaga	18	.817
2.	Roy Williams/UNC	29	.791
3.	**John Calipari/Kentucky**	**25**	**.782**
4.	Mike Krzyzewski/Duke	42	.764
5.	Bill Self/Kansas	24	.763

*numbers going into the 2017-18 season

SINCE 2005-06 ...

Since the 2005-06 season, John Calipari's on-court record ranks him as the winningest coach. Totals through March 11, 2018.

	COACH	RECORD
1.	**John Calipari**	**410-77**
2.	Bill Self	396-78
3.	Mike Krzyzewski	376-91
4.	Mark Few	374-80
5.	Roy Williams	371-110

MISCELLANEOUS ON-COURT RECORDS

Overall On-Court Record: .....718-203 (.780)
March/April Record:.....155-43 (.783)
NCAA Record:.....51-17 (.750)
Record in Conference Games: .....329-101 (.765)
Record in Conference Tournament:.....56-12 (.824)

- Calipari owns the most single-season wins with 38, tying his own record (Memphis in '08 and UK in '12) in 2015 with 38 wins. He owns the most single-season wins at UMass, Memphis and UK
- Calipari is one of two coaches (Roy Williams) in NCAA Division I history to have 400 or more wins in the first 16 years as a head coach. Calipari had 416 wins in his first 16 years
- Calipari is the winningest coach in NCAA Division I history for a five-year span with 173 victories (2008-12)
- Calipari is the first coach in NCAA Division I history to record five straight on-court 30-win seasons. Memphis hit the 30-win plateau from 2006-09
- Calipari is one of only two coaches (Rick Pitino) to lead three different schools to a Final Four
- Calipari is one of only three coaches (John Wooden, Mike Kzryzewski) to go to four Final Fours in five seasons
- Calipari started with a 54-0 record in Rupp Arena as head coach of the Wildcats
- Calipari has 31 players that have been chosen in the NBA Draft (24 first-round picks) over the last eight seasons
- Calipari has more wins (327) in a 10-year period (2006-15) than any other coach in college basketball history
- Calipari is the second-fastest Division I men's basketball coach to reach 200 victories at a single school, behind only LIU-Brooklyn's Claire Bee
- Calipari's 30 combined regular season and tournament league titles trail only Mark Few (32) of Gonzaga for the most among active coaches
- Calipari became the fourth-fastest coach to 700 on-court wins, behind only Adolph Rupp, Jerry Tarkanian and Roy Williams
- Calipari has the third-most wins in school history, behind only Adolph Rupp and Joe B. Hall

CAL IN CONFERENCE

SEC COACHES	CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS	Tournament Championships	Conference Coach of the Year
Avery Johnson, Alabama	0	0	0
Mike Anderson, Arkansas	1	1	1
Bruce Pearl, Auburn	8	2	7
Michael White, Florida	3	0	3
Mark Fox, Georgia	4	0	3
John Calipari, Kentucky	**15**	**15**	**9**
Will Wade, LSU	0	0	1
Cuonzo Martin, Missouri	1	0	1
Andy Kennedy, Ole Miss	0	1	2
Ben Howland, Mississippi State	7	5	3
Frank Martin, South Carolina	0	0	1
Rick Barnes, Tennessee	4	1	6
Billy Kennedy, Texas A&M	5	2	4
Bryce Drew, Vanderbilt	4	2	3
TOTALS	**52**	**29**	**44**

CALIPARI VS. ALL OPPONENTS

Alabama 15-3
Albany..... 1-0
Arizona 1-1
Arizona State 2-1
Arkansas 11-6
Arkansas-Little Rock 3-0
Arkansas-Pine Bluff..... 1-0
Arkansas State 4-0
Auburn..... 9-2
Austin Peay..... 6-1
Baylor 1-2
Belmont..... 2-0
Boise State..... 1-0
Boston 7-1
Boston College..... 2-0
Bradley 1-0
Bucknell..... 1-0
Buffalo 2-0
BYU 1-0
Cal State Northridge..... 1-0
Canisius 1-0
Central Conn. St..... 2-0
Charlotte..... 2-3
Chattanooga 2-0
Christian Brothers..... 2-0
Cincinnati..... 6-7
Cleveland State..... 4-0
Coastal Carolina..... 1-0
Colorado..... 1-1
Colorado State..... 0-1
Columbia 1-0
Connecticut 2-5
Coppin State 1-0
Cornell 1-0
Dartmouth..... 1-0
Dayton 1-0
DePaul 4-2
Detroit 1-0
Drexel 2-0
Duke 1-2
Duquesne 12-4
East Carolina..... 7-0
East Tennessee State 4-0
Eastern Kentucky..... 3-0
Eastern Michigan..... 2-0
Fairfield..... 1-0
Florida 15-8
Florida State 1-1
Florida Tech 0-1
Fordham 5-0
Fort Wayne 1-0
Furman 1-0
George Mason 1-0
George Washington..... 8-9
Georgetown..... 2-1
Georgia 16-2
Georgia Tech..... 1-1
Gonzaga..... 4-0
Grand Canyon..... 1-0
Hampton..... 1-0
Hartford..... 2-0
Harvard..... 2-0
Hofstra..... 1-0
Holy Cross..... 4-1
Houston..... 16-3
Howard..... 1-0
Illinois 1-1
Illinois State 1-0
Indiana..... 3-2
Iowa..... 0-1
Iowa State..... 2-0
Jackson State 2-0
Kansas..... 3-6
Kansas State 2-0
Keene State 1-0
Kentucky..... 2-4
La Salle..... 3-0
Lafayette (Pa.)..... 1-0
Lamar..... 4-0
LIU-Brooklyn..... 1-0
Lipscomb 1-0
Long Beach State 1-0
Louisiana Tech 1-1
Louisville..... 15-7
Loyola 1-0
Lowell 2-1
LSU..... 11-2
Manhattan..... 2-0
Marist 2-0
Marquette 3-1
Marshall..... 6-0
Maryland 5-3
Massachusetts..... 1-0
Memphis 1-0
Miami (Fla.) 0-1
Miami (Ohio) 2-0
Michigan..... 1-0
Michigan State..... 2-1
Middle Tennessee..... 3-0
Milwaukee..... 1-0
Mississippi State 12-0
Mississippi Valley St..... 1-0
Missouri..... 8-3
Monmouth 1-0
Montana State..... 1-0
Morehead State..... 2-0
Murray State..... 1-0
Nevada 1-0
New Hampshire..... 5-0
New Mexico..... 1-0
New Orleans..... 1-0
NJIT..... 1-0
North Carolina..... 6-3
North Carolina State..... 1-0
North Texas..... 1-0
Northeastern..... 3-1
Northern Kentucky..... 2-0
Northwestern State..... 1-0
Notre Dame..... 2-1
Oakland 1-0
Ohio State..... 1-2
Oklahoma 5-1
Oklahoma State..... 0-2
Old Dominion 2-0
Ole Miss..... 14-4
Oral Roberts 1-0
Oregon State..... 1-0
Pennsylvania..... 3-0
Penn State 4-4
Pepperdine..... 1-0
Pittsburgh..... 2-1
Portland..... 3-0
Princeton..... 2-0
Providence..... 3-1
Purdue..... 2-1
Radford..... 1-0
Rhode Island..... 16-2
Rice..... 4-0
Richmond 1-0
Rider..... 1-0
Robert Morris..... 1-1
Rutgers 11-4
Saint Louis 4-3
Sam Houston State..... 1-0
Samford..... 3-0
Santa Clara..... 1-0
Savannah State..... 1-0
Seton Hall 1-0
Siena..... 4-0
SMU..... 7-0
South Carolina..... 13-3
South Connecticut..... 1-0
S. Louisiana..... 3-0
Southern Cal..... 2-0
Southern Miss 15-4
Southwest Texas St..... 1-0
St. Bonaventure..... 17-1
St. John's..... 1-0
St. Joseph's 15-5
St. Mary's..... 1-0
St. Peter's 1-0
Stanford..... 3-2
Stephen F. Austin..... 1-0
Stony Brook 1-0
Syracuse..... 3-2
TCU 7-1
Temple..... 13-11
Tennessee..... 15-9
Tennessee Tech..... 1-0
Texas..... 2-2
Texas A&M..... 8-3
Towson State 1-0
Troy..... 1-0
Tulane..... 16-0
Tulsa 11-1
UAB..... 14-3
UCF..... 5-0
UCLA..... 4-4
UNC Asheville 2-0
UNC Greensboro 1-0
UNC Wilmington..... 1-0
UIC..... 1-0
USF 10-1
Utah..... 1-1
Utah Valley 1-0
UTEP 5-0
UT Arlington 3-0
UT Martin 5-0
Valparaiso..... 1-0
Vanderbilt..... 15-4
Vermont..... 3-0
Villanova..... 2-0
Virginia 0-1
Virginia Tech 3-0
Wake Forest..... 2-1
Washington 1-0
West Virginia 13-7
Western Kentucky 2-0
Wichita State 2-0
Winthrop 2-0
Wisconsin 1-1
Wofford 1-0
Wright State..... 1-0
Xavier..... 2-2
Yale 1-0

INDIVIDUAL GAME RECORDS CAL ERA

MOST POINTS

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
47	Malik Monk vs. North Carolina	12-17-16
39	De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA	3-24-17
37	Malik Monk vs. GEORGIA	1-31-17
35	Jamal Murray vs. FLORIDA	2-6-16
35	Terrence Jones vs. AUBURN	1-11-11
34	Kevin Knox at West Virginia	1-27-17
34	Malik Monk at Ole Miss	12-29-16
33	Malik Monk vs. FLORIDA	2-25-17
33	Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt	2-27-16
33	Jamal Murray vs. Ohio State	12-19-15
32	Doron Lamb vs. WINTHROP	12-22-10
30	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. VANDERBILT	1-30-18
30	Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M	3-13-16
30	Brandon Knight vs. West Virginia	3-19-11
29	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. Tennessee	3-11-19
29	Julius Randle vs. BELMONT	12-21-13
29	Terrence Jones vs. Oklahoma	11-22-10
29	Eric Bledsoe vs. East Tennessee St.	3-18-10

SEC: 37, Malik Monk vs. GEORGIA, 1-31-17
Postseason: 39, De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA, 3-24-17
SEC Tourney: 30, Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M, 3-13-16
NCAA Tourney: 39, De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA, 3-24-17
Rupp Arena: 37, Malik Monk vs. GEORGIA, 1-31-17
On the Road: 34, Kevin Knox at West Virginia, 1-27-17
Neutral: 47, Malik Monk vs. North Carolina, 12-17-16
SEC Road: 34, Malik Monk at Ole Miss, 12-29-16
Ranked Opp.: 47, Malik Monk vs. North Carolina, 12-17-16
Freshman: 47, Malik Monk vs. North Carolina, 12-17-16
Sophomore: 30, Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M, 3-13-16
Junior: 25, Derek Willis vs. TENNESSEE, 2-18-16
Senior: 25, Alex Poythress at Alabama, 1-19-16
Opener: 25, Terrence Jones vs. ETSU, 11-12-10
SEC Opener: 34, Malik Monk at Ole Mis, 12-29-16
***In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed*

MOST POINTS IN AN SEC GAME

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
37	Malik Monk vs. GEORGIA	1-31-17
35	Jamal Murray vs. FLORIDA	2-6-16
35	Terrence Jones vs. AUBURN	1-11-11
34	Malik Monk at Ole Miss	12-29-16
33	Malik Monk vs. FLORIDA	2-25-17
33	Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt	2-27-16
30	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. VANDERBILT	1-30-18
28	Jamal Murray vs. TENNESSEE	2-18-16
28	Anthony Davis vs. VANDERBILT	2-25-12
27	Malik Monk vs. VANDERBILT	2-28-17
27	Malik Monk vs. SOUTH CAROLINA	1-21-17
27	De'Aaron Fox vs. ARKANSAS	1-7-17
27	Tyler Ulis at South Carolina	2-13-16
27	Terrence Jones at LSU	1-28-12
27	Anthony Davis vs. ARKANSAS	1-17-12
27	DeMarcus Cousins at South Carolina	1-26-10
26	Malik Monk vs. TEXAS A&M	1-3-17
26	Jamal Murray at South Carolina	2-13-16
26	Aaron Harrison vs. OLE MISS	1-6-15
26	Andrew Harrison vs. TENNESSEE	1-18-14
26	James Young vs. MISSISSIPPI ST.	1-8-14
26	Kyle Wiltjer at Ole Miss	1-29-13
26	Brandon Knight at Arkansas	2-23-11

MOST POINTS IN A HALF

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
30	Malik Monk[2] vs. FLORIDA	2-25-17
27	Malik Monk[1] vs. North Carolina	12-17-16
27	Jamal Murray[2] vs. Ohio State	12-19-15
24	De'Aaron Fox[2] vs. UCLA	3-24-17
24	Malik Monk[1] at Ole Miss	12-29-16
23	Malik Monk[2] vs. GEORGIA	1-31-17
23	Julius Randle[2] vs. Michigan St.	11-12-13
22	Terrence Jones[2] vs. AUBURN	1-11-11
22	Eric Bledsoe[2] vs. MOREHEAD ST.	11-13-09

1 - First Half; 2 - Second Half

MOST POINTS OFF THE BENCH

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
35	Terrence Jones vs. AUBURN	1-11-11
32	Doron Lamb vs. WINTHROP	12-22-10
27	Malik Monk vs. VANDERBILT	2-28-17
26	Kyle Wiltjer at Ole Miss	1-29-13
24	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. LOUISVILLE	12-29-17
24	Kyle Wiltjer vs. LOYOLA	12-22-11
24	Doron Lamb at North Carolina	12-4-10
23	Wenyen Gabriel vs. Alabama	3-10-18
23	Kyle Wiltjer vs. LIPSCOMB	12-15-12
22	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. VANDERBILT	1-30-18
21	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. GEORGIA	12-31-17

MOST 3-POINTERS MADE

3's	Player vs. Opponent	Date
8	Malik Monk vs. North Carolina	12-17-16
8	Jamal Murray vs. FLORIDA	2-6-16
8	Eric Bledsoe vs. ETSU	3-18-10

MOST FREE THROWS

FTs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
14	Tyler Ulis at Arkansas	1-21-16
13	De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA	3-24-17
13	Julius Randle at Ole Miss	2-18-14
13	Julius Randle vs. BELMONT	12-21-13
12	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. GEORGIA	12-31-17
12	Tyler Ulis at Tennessee	2-2-16
12	Dakari Johnson vs. UT ARLINGTON	11-25-14
12	Archie Goodwin at Ole Miss	1-29-13
12	Archie Goodwin vs. MOREHEAD ST.	11-21-12
12	Anthony Davis vs. LOUISVILLE	12-31-11

MOST REBOUNDS

Rebs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
19	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
18	Bam Adebayo vs. Northern Kentucky	3-17-17
18	Anthony Davis vs. CHATTANOOGA	12-17-11
18	DeMarcus Cousins vs. LOUISVILLE	1-2-10
18	Patrick Patterson vs. RIDER	11-21-09
18	DeMarcus Cousins vs. SAM HOUSTON ST.	11-19-09
17	Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame	12-8-10
17	Terrence Jones at Washington	11-23-10
16	Wenyen Gabriel vs. AUBURN	1-14-17
16	Julius Randle vs. LSU	3-14-14
16	Julius Randle vs. UNC ASHEVILLE	11-8-13
16	Nerlens Noel vs. BAYLOR	12-1-12
16	Anthony Davis vs. Kansas	4-2-12
16	Anthony Davis vs. LITTLE ROCK	1-3-12
15	Jarred Vanderbilt vs. MISSOURI	2-24-18
15	Nick Richards vs. FORT WAYNE	11-22-17
15	Bam Adebayo vs. FLORIDA	2-25-17
15	Bam Adebayo at Missouri	2-21-17
15	Julius Randle vs. Kansas State	3-21-14
15	Julius Randle at South Carolina	3-1-14
15	Julius Randle vs. LSU	2-22-14
15	Julius Randle vs. CLEVELAND STATE	11-25-13
15	Julius Randle vs. R. MORRIS	11-17-13
15	Anthony Davis vs. ST. JOHN'S	12-1-11
15	Terrence Jones vs. UConn	4-2-11
15	DeMarcus Cousins vs. Tennessee	3-13-10

SEC: 16, Wenyen Gabriel, vs. AUBURN, 1-14-17
Postseason: 18, Bam Adebayo, vs. NKU, 3-17-17
SEC Tourney: 16, Julius Randle vs. LSU, 3-14-14
NCAA Tourney: 18, Bam Adebayo, vs. NKU, 3-17-17
Rupp Arena: 19, M. Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE, 12-31-11
On the Road: 17, Terrence Jones at Wash., 11-23-10
SEC Road: 15, Bam Adebayo at Missouri, 2-21-17
Ranked Opp.: 19, M. Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE, 12-31-11
Freshman: 19, M. Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE, 12-31-11
Sophomore: 14, Isaiah Briscoe at Tennessee, 1-24-17
Junior: 18, Patrick Patterson vs. RIDER, 11-21-09
Senior: 14, Josh Harrellson at Arkansas, 2-23-11
Opener: 16, Julius Randle vs. UNC ASHEVILLE, 11-8-13
SEC Opener: 12, W. Cauley-Stein vs. OLE MISS, 1-6-15
***In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed*

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
9	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. ARKANSAS	2-27-14
9	DeMarcus Cousins vs. OLE MISS	2-2-10
9	Patrick Patterson vs. RIDER	11-21-09
8	Bam Adebayo vs. UT MARTIN	11-25-16
8	Dakari Johnson vs. GRAND CANYON	11-14-14
8	DeMarcus Cousins vs. VANDERBILT	1-30-10
8	Patrick Patterson at Indiana	12-12-09
8	DeMarcus Cousins vs. S. HOUSTON ST.	11-19-09

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
15	Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame	12-8-10
14	DeMarcus Cousins vs. LOUISVILLE	1-2-10
13	Anthony Davis vs. LSU	3-9-12
13	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
13	Anthony Davis vs. CHATTANOOGA	12-17-11
13	Terrence Jones vs. Washington	11-23-10
12	Jarred Vanderbilt vs. MISSOURI	2-24-18
12	Bam Adebayo vs. Northern Kentucky	3-17-17
12	Karl-Anthony Towns vs. GEORGIA	2-3-15
12	Julius Randle vs. Kansas State	3-21-14
12	Anthony Davis vs. Kansas	4-2-12
12	Anthony Davis vs. Louisville	3-31-12
12	Anthony Davis vs. LITTLE ROCK	1-3-12

MOST ASSISTS

Assts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
16	John Wall vs. HARTFORD	12-29-09
14	Tyler Ulis vs. LSU	3-5-16
14	John Wall vs. UNC Asheville	11-30-09
12	De'Aaron Fox vs. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	11-11-16
12	Tyler Ulis at South Carolina	2-13-16
11	Isaiah Briscoe at Ole Miss	12-29-16
11	De'Aaron Fox vs. CLEVELAND ST.	11-23-16
11	Tyler Ulis at Florida	3-1-16
11	Tyler Ulis at Texas A&M	2-20-16
11	Tyler Ulis vs. FLORIDA	2-6-16
11	John Wall vs. East Tennessee State	3-18-10
11	John Wall vs. RIDER	11-21-09

SEC: 14, Tyler Ulis vs. LSU, 3-5-16
Postseason: 11, John Wall vs. E. Tennessee State, 3-18-10
SEC Tourney: 9, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. Georgia, 3-9-18
NCAA Tourney: 11, J. Wall vs. E. Tennessee St., 3-18-10
Rupp Arena: 16, John Wall vs. HARTFORD, 12-29-09
On the Road: 12, Tyler Ulis, at South Carolina, 2-13-16
SEC Road: 12, Tyler Ulis, at South Carolina, 2-13-16
Ranked Opp.: 12, Tyler Ulis, at South Carolina, 2-13-16
Freshman: 16, John Wall vs. HARTFORD, 12-29-09
Sophomore: 14, Tyler Ulis vs. LSU, 3-5-16
Junior: 9, DeAndre Liggins vs. WINTHROP, 12-22-10
Senior: 10, Julius Mays vs. LAFAYETTE, 11-16-12
Opener: 12, De'Aaron Fox vs. SFA, 11-11-16
SEC Opener: 11, Isaiah Briscoe at Ole Miss, 12-29-16

MOST POINTS-REBOUNDS-ASSISTS

P-R-A	Player vs. Opponent	Date
49 (47-0-2)	Malik Monk vs. UNC	12-17-16
47 (27-17-3)	Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame	12-8-10
46 (39-3-4)	De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA	3-24-17
45 (29-13-3)	Terrence Jones vs. Oklahoma	11-22-10
45 (27-18-0)	DeMarcus Cousins vs. S. HOUSTON	11-19-09
44 (24-19-1)	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
43 (33-9-2)	Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt	2-27-16
43 (35-8-0)	Terrence Jones vs. AUBURN	1-11-11
42 (33-4-5)	Malik Monk vs. FLORIDA	2-25-17
42 (23-11-8)	Isaiah Briscoe vs. GEORGIA	1-31-17
42 (35-6-1)	Jamal Murray vs. FLORIDA	2-6-16
41 (34-7-0)	Kevin Knox at West Virginia	1-27-18
41 (25-15-1)	Nick Richards vs. FORT WAYNE	11-22-17
41 (37-3-1)	Malik Monk vs. GEORGIA	1-31-17
41 (34-6-1)	Malik Monk at Ole Miss	12-29-16
41 (26-10-5)	James Young vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE	1-8-14
41 (27-13-1)	Julius Randle vs. Michigan State	11-12-13
41 (27-14-0)	Anthony Davis vs. ARKANSAS	1-17-12

MOST MINUTES WITHOUT A TURNOVER

Mins.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
44	Darius Miller at Arkansas	2-23-11
41	Aaron Harrison vs. LSU	2-22-14
40	Tyler Ulis vs. Duke	11-17-15
40	Aaron Harrison vs. OLE MISS	1-6-15
40	Alex Poythress vs. MISSOURI	2-23-13
39	Nerlens Noel vs. TEXAS A&M	1-12-13
39	Ryan Harrow at Louisville	12-29-12
39	Anthony Davis vs. ALABAMA	1-21-12
39	M. Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
38	Aaron Harrison at LSU	1-28-14
38	Patrick Patterson vs. Mississippi State	3-14-10

MOST BLOCKED SHOTS

Blks.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
12	Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss	1-29-13
9	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. BOISE STATE	12-10-13
9	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Providence	12-1-13
8	Nerlens Noel at Alabama	1-22-13
8	Anthony Davis at South Carolina	2-4-12
8	Anthony Davis vs. ST. JOHN'S	12-1-11
7	Karl-Anthony Towns vs. VANDERBILT	1-20-15
7	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. E. MICHIGAN	11-27-13
7	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. MISSOURI	2-23-13
7	Nerlens Noel at Auburn	1-19-13
7	Nerlens Noel vs. TEXAS A&M	1-12-13
7	Nerlens Noel vs. LIPSCOMB	12-15-12
7	Nerlens Noel vs. PORTLAND	12-8-12
7	Anthony Davis vs. Western Kentucky	3-15-12
7	Anthony Davis at Vanderbilt	2-11-12
7	Anthony Davis vs. TENNESSEE	1-31-12
7	Anthony Davis vs. ARKANSAS	1-17-12
7	Anthony Davis vs. SOUTH CAROLINA	1-7-12
7	Anthony Davis vs. Kansas	11-15-11

SEC: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
Postseason: 7, A. Davis vs. Western Kentucky, 3-15-12
SEC Tourney: 6, Anthony Davis vs. LSU, 3-11-12
NCAA Tourney: 7, A. Davis vs. Western Kent., 3-15-12
Rupp Arena: 9, W. Cauley-Stein vs. BOISE ST., 12-10-13
On the Road: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
SEC Road: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
Ranked Opp.: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
Freshman: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
Sophomore: 9, W. Cauley-Stein vs. BOISE ST., 12-10-13
Junior: 4, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. ARKANSAS, 2-28-15
Senior: 6, Josh Harrellson vs. PENN, 1-3-11
Opener: 5, Anthony Davis vs. MARIST, 11-11-11
SEC Opener: 7, A. Davis vs. SOUTH CAROLINA, 1-7-12
***In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed*

MOST STEALS

Stls.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
6	Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS	1-2-16
6	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. GEORGIA	1-25-14
6	Nerlens Noel vs. BAYLOR	12-1-12
6	John Wall vs. UConn	12-9-09
6	John Wall vs. UNC Asheville	11-30-09
5	Malik Monk vs. UCLA	12-3-16
5	Aaron Harrison vs. ARKANSAS	2-28-15
5	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Texas	12-5-14
5	DeAndre Liggins vs. TENNESSEE	2-8-11
5	Darius Miller at Portland	11-19-10

SEC: 6, Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS, 1-2-16
Postseason: 5, John Wall vs. Mississippi State, 3-14-10
SEC Tourney: 5, John Wall vs. Mississippi State, 3-14-10
NCAA Tourney: 4, An. Harrison vs. W. Virginia, 3-26-15
Rupp Arena: 6, Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS, 1-2-16
On the Road: 5, Darius Miller at Portland, 11-19-10
SEC Road: 3, Fox/Monk at Ole Miss, 12-29-16
Ranked Opp.: 5, Malik Monk vs. UCLA, 12-3-16
Freshman: 6, Nerlens Noel vs. BAYLOR, 12-1-12
Sophomore: 6, Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS, 1-2-16
Junior: 5, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. TEXAS, 12-5-14
Senior: 4, Dominique Hawkins vs. Arkansas, 3-12-17
Opener: 4, Knox/Gilgeous-Alexander vs.UTAH VALLEY, 11-10-17
SEC Opener: 6, Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS, 1-2-16
***In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed*

TEAM GAME RECORDS CAL ERA

MOST POINTS

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
115 (115-69)	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
111 (111-76)	UT MARTIN	11-25-16
110 (110-75)	AUBURN	2-21-15
108 (108-58)	MARIST	11-11-11
107 (107-73)	UIC	11-26-17
105 (105-76)	UT ARLINGTON	11-19-13
104 (104-75)	LIU BROOKLYN	11-23-12
104 (104-61)	HARTFORD	12-29-09
103 (103-100)	vs. North Carolina	12-17-16
102 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3-23-12
102 (102-92)	SAM HOUSTON ST.	11-19-09

MOST POINTS IN A LOSS

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
92 (97-92)	UCLA	12-3-16
85 (85-87)	at Arkansas	1-14-14
84 (90-84)	at Kansas	1-30-16
82 (87-82)	at LSU	1-28-14
80 (82-80)	at Tennessee	1-24-17
77 (79-77)	at Texas A&M	2-20-16
77 (87-77)	at UCLA	12-3-15
77 (77-82)	at North Carolina	12-14-13
77 (77-80)	at Louisville	12-19-12
76 (76-77)	at Arkansas	2-23-11

MOST POINTS IN A WIN OVER AP RANKED TEAM

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
103 (103-100)	vs. North Carolina	12-17-16
102 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3-23-12
87 (87-74)	at Ole Miss	1-29-13
86 (86-75)	vs. UCLA	3-24-17
85 (85-69)	SOUTH CAROLINA	1-21-17
85 (85-75)	OLE MISS	2-2-10
85 (85-72)	VANDERBILT	1-30-10
84 (84-67)	ARKANSAS	2-28-15
84 (84-70)	NORTH CAROLINA	12-13-14
83 (83-76)	at West Virginia	1-27-18

MOST PTS. AT NEUTRAL SITE

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
115 (115-69)	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
103 (103-100)	vs. North Carolina	12-17-16
102 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3-23-12
100 (100-71)	vs. ETSU	3-18-10
96 (96-73)	vs. Hofstra	12-11-16
94 (94-57)	vs. UNC Asheville	11-30-09
93 (93-76)	vs. Monmouth	12-9-17
93 (93-80)	vs. Georgia	3-12-16
91 (91-67)	vs. Auburn	3-14-15
90 (90-60)	vs. Wake Forest	3-20-10

MOST PTS. IN NCAA TOURNEY

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
102 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3-23-12
100 (100-71)	vs. ETSU	3-18-10
90 (90-60)	vs. Wake Forest	3-20-10
87 (87-71)	vs. Iowa State	3-17-12
86 (86-75)	vs. UCLA	3-24-17
85 (85-57)	vs. Stony Brook	3-17-16
82 (82-70)	vs. Baylor	3-25-12
81 (81-66)	vs. Western Kentucky	3-15-12
79 (79-70)	vs. NKU	3-17-17
79 (79-56)	vs. Hampton	3-19-15

MOST PTS. IN SEC TOURNEY

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
93 (93-80)	vs. Georgia	3-12-16
91 (91-67)	vs. Auburn	3-14-15
86 (86-63)	vs. Alabama	3-10-18
85 (85-59)	vs. Alabama	3-11-16
85 (85-67)	vs. LSU	3-14-14
82 (82-65)	vs. Arkansas	3-12-17
82 (82-77)	vs. Texas A&M	3-13-16
79 (79-74)	vs. Alabama	3-11-17
78 (78-63)	vs. Arkansas	3-15-15

MOST PTS. IN RUPP ARENA WIN

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
111 (111-76)	UT MARTIN	11-25-16
110 (110-75)	AUBURN	2-21-15
108 (108-58)	MARIST	11-11-11
107 (107-73)	UIC	11-26-17
105 (105-76)	UT ARLINGTON	11-19-13
104 (104-75)	LIU BROOKLYN	11-23-12
104 (104-61)	HARTFORD	12-29-09
102 (102-92)	SAM HOUSTON ST.	11-19-09
101 (101-70	CLEVELAND STATE	11-23-16
101 (101-49)	LAFAYETTE	11-16-12
101 (101-70)	ARKANSAS	1-23-10

MOST PTS. IN ROAD GAME WIN

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
99 (99-76)	at Ole Miss	12-29-16
90 (90-73)	at Indiana	12-12-09
89 (89-62)	at South Carolina	2-13-16
89 (89-77)	at Florida	1-12-10
88 (88-81)	at Mississippi St.	1-17-17
88 (88-79)	at Florida	3-1-16
87 (87-72)	at Arkansas	2-20-18
87 (87-81)	at Vanderbilt	1-10-17
87 (87-74)	at Ole Miss	1-29-13

MOST POINTS IN A HALF

Pts.	Opp.	Date
63[2]	UT ARLINGTON	11-19-13
63[2]	MARIST	11-11-11
60[1]	at Ole Miss	12-29-16
58[1]	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
58[2]	UT MARTIN	11-25-16
58[2]	AUBURN	2-21-15
57[2]	vs. Alabama	3-10-18
57[2]	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
57[1]	ARKANSAS	1-23-10
57[1]	HARTFORD	12-29-09

[1] - First Half; [2] - Second Half

FEWEST POINTS

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
48 (48-64)	vs. Vanderbilt	3-15-13
50 (50-64)	at Notre Dame	11-29-12
52 (52-69)	at Florida	2-12-13
54 (54-60)	vs. UConn	4-7-14
55 (55-48)	ALABAMA	3-4-14
55 (55-59)	at Alabama	1-22-13
55 (55-64)	BAYLOR	12-1-12
55 (55-56)	vs. UConn	4-2-11
56 (56-49)	vs. Kansas State	3-21-14
56 (56-46)	COLUMBIA	12-10-14

FEWEST POINTS IN A WIN

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
55 (55-48)	ALABAMA	3-4-14
56 (56-49)	vs. Kansas State	3-21-14
56 (56-46)	COLUMBIA	12-10-14
57 (57-44)	at Georgia	1-24-12
58 (58-50)	at Louisville	12-27-14
58 (58-38)	PROVIDENCE	11-30-14
58 (58-43)	at South Carolina	1-24-14
58 (58-56)	at Vanderbilt	2-20-10
59 (59-57)	vs. Princeton	3-1-11
60 (60-58)	at Vanderbilt	1-10-13
60 (60-51)	vs. LSU	3-9-12

FEWEST PTS. AT NEUTRAL SITE

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
48 (48-64)	vs. Vanderbilt	3-15-13
54 (54-60)	vs. UConn	4-7-14
55 (55-56)	vs. UConn	4-2-11
56 (56-49)	vs. Kansas State	3-21-14
59 (59-57)	vs. Princeton	3-17-11
60 (60-61)	vs. Florida	3-16-14
60 (60-51)	vs. LSU	3-9-12
61 (61-65)	vs. Kansas	11-14-17

FEWEST POINTS IN NCAA TOURNEY

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
54 (54-60)	vs. UConn	4-7-14
55 (55-56)	vs. UConn	4-2-11
56 (56-49)	vs. Kansas State	3-21-14
59 (59-57)	vs. Princeton	3-17-11
62 (62-60)	vs. Ohio State	3-25-11
62 (62-45)	vs. Cornell	3-25-10
64 (64-71)	vs. Wisconsin	4-4-15
64 (64-51)	vs. Cincinnati	3-21-15
65 (65-62)	vs. Wichita State	3-19-17
66 (66-73)	vs. West Virginia	3-27-10

FEWEST PTS. IN SEC TOURNEY

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
48 (48-64)	vs. Vanderbilt	3-15-13
60 (60-61)	vs. Florida	3-16-14
60 (60-51)	vs. LSU	3-9-12
62 (62-49)	vs. Georgia	3-9-18
64 (64-49)	vs. Florida	3-13-15
64 (64-71)	vs. Vanderbilt	3-11-12
70 (70-58)	vs. Georgia	3-15-14
70 (70-54)	vs. Florida	3-13-11
71 (71-60)	vs. Georgia	3-10-17
72 (72-58)	vs. Alabama	3-12-11

FEWEST PTS. IN RUPP ARENA

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
55 (55-64)	BAYLOR	12-1-12
56 (56-46)	COLUMBIA	12-10-14
58 (58-38)	PROVIDENCE	11-30-14
59 (59-61)	TENNESSEE	2-6-18
61 (61-57)	FLORIDA	3-9-13

FEWEST PTS. IN ROAD GAME

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
50 (50-64)	at Notre Dame	11-29-12
52 (52-69)	at Florida	2-12-13
55 (55-48)	at Alabama	3-4-14
55 (55-59)	at Alabama	1-22-13
57 (57-59)	at Robert Morris	3-19-13
57 (57-44)	at Georgia	1-24-12
58 (58-50)	at Louisville	12-27-14
58 (58-43)	at South Carolina	1-24-14
58 (58-88)	at Tennessee	2-16-13
58 (58-56)	at Vanderbilt	2-20-10

FEWEST POINTS IN A HALF

Pts.	Opp.	Date
18[1]	at Missouri	2-3-18
19[2]	at Georgia	1-24-12
21[1]	vs. UConn	4-2-11
22[1]	at Louisville	12-27-14
22[2]	at Alabama	1-22-13
22[1]	at Tennessee	3-6-11
23[1]	COLUMBIA	12-10-14
23[2]	vs. UConn	4-7-14
23[1]	vs. Vanderbilt	3-15-13
23[2]	vs. Maryland	11-9-12
23[1]	vs. UConn	12-9-09

[1] - First Half; [2] - Second Half

MOST FIELD GOALS

FGs.	Opp.	Date
46	MARIST	11-11-11
44	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
44	AUBURN	2-21-15
42	UIC	11-26-17
42	LIU-BROOKLYN	11-23-12
41	UT MARTIN	11-25-16
41	HARTFORD	12-29-09
40	vs. North Carolina	12-17-16
40	LAFAYETTE	11-16-12
38	CLEVELAND STATE	11-23-16
38	LSU	3-5-16
38	vs. Wake Forest	3-20-10

FEWEST FIELD GOALS

FGs.	Opp.	Date
14	at South Carolina	3-1-14
16	ALABAMA	3-4-14
17	GEORGIA	12-31-17
17	LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
17	at Auburn	2-12-14
18	vs. LSU	3-9-12
18	vs. Vanderbilt	3-15-13
18	vs. Florida	3-16-14
18	vs. UConn	4-7-14
18	at Texas A&M	1-10-15
18	at South Carolina	1-24-15

MOST FIELD-GOAL ATTEMPTS

FGs.	Opp.	Date
84	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
80	UCLA	12-3-16
77	ARKANSAS	1-23-10
76	ARKANSAS	2-27-14
75	MARIST	11-11-11
74	at Ole Miss	12-29-16
74	vs. North Carolina	12-17-16
74	UT MARTIN	11-25-16

FEWEST FIELD-GOAL ATTEMPTS

FGs.	Opp.	Date
39	at South Carolina	1-24-15
40	at Robert Morris	3-19-13
41	ALABAMA	1-31-15
41	TENNESSEE	1-31-12
42	vs. Alabama	3-10-18
42	FLORIDA	2-15-14
42	vs. Providence	12-1-13
42	vs. LSU	3-9-12
42	vs. Cleveland State	11-24-09

MOST FREE THROWS

FTs.	Opp.	Date
35	vs. Indiana	3-23-12
33	at South Carolina	3-1-14
32	LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
31	MOREHEAD STATE	11-21-12
31	INDIANA	12-11-10
30	vs. Auburn	3-14-15
30	UNC ASHEVILLE	11-8-13
30	vs. Baylor	3-25-12
29	ILLINOIS STATE	11-30-15
29	at North Carolina	12-14-13

FEWEST FREE THROWS

FTs.	Opp.	Date
3	ETSU	11-17-17
4	vs. UConn	4-2-11
4	VANDERBILT	1-23-16
5	vs. Georgia	3-9-18
6	vs. Michigan	3-30-14
6	at Florida	2-12-13
6	at Alabama	1-22-13
6	vs. Princeton	3-17-11
7	at LSU	1-3-18
7	at LSU	2-10-15
7	vs. UCLA	12-20-14
7	at Florida	3-4-12
7	at Georgia	1-24-12
7	vs. Wake Forest	3-20-10

MOST FREE-THROW ATTEMPTS

FTs.	Opp.	Date
48	UNC ASHEVILLE	11-8-13
46	ILLINOIS STATE	11-30-15
44	vs. Baylor	3-25-12
44	INDIANA	12-11-10
43	at North Carolina	12-14-13
43	LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
42	at South Carolina	3-1-14
41	vs. LSU	3-14-14
41	MOREHEAD STATE	11-21-12

FEWEST FREE-THROW ATTEMPTS

FTs.	Opp.	Date
6	VANDERBILT	1-23-16
10	vs. Georgia	3-9-18
10	vs. Wisconsin	4-4-15
11	at LSU	2-10-15
11	vs. Michigan	3-30-14
11	MISSISSIPPI STATE	2-27-13
11	at Florida	2-12-13
11	at Alabama	1-22-13
11	at Florida	3-4-12
11	GEORGIA	3-1-12
11	FLORIDA	2-7-12
11	vs. Princeton	3-17-11

MOST 3-POINTERS

3s.	Opp.	Date
15	GEORGIA	3-1-12
15	vs. East Tennessee State	3-18-10
14	HARTFORD	12-29-09
13	TEXAS A&M	1-3-17
13	vs. Alabama	3-11-16
13	EAST TENNESSEE STATE	11-12-10
12	vs. Alabama	3-10-18
12	FLORIDA	2-6-16
12	vs. UCLA	12-20-14
12	CHATTANOOGA	12-17-11
12	vs. North Carolina	3-27-11
12	WINTHROP	12-22-10
12	VANDERBILT	1-30-10

FEWEST 3-POINTERS

3s.	Opp.	Date
1	at South Carolina	1-16-18
1	at Vanderbilt	1-10-17
1	Texas	12-5-14
1	LSU	2-22-14
1	vs. LSU	3-9-12
1	Tennessee	1-31-12
1	vs. Alabama	3-12-10

MOST 3-POINT ATTEMPTS

3s.	Opp.	Date
33	CHATTANOOGA	12-17-11
33	vs. East Tennessee State	3-18-10
33	ARKANSAS	1-23-10
32	vs. West Virginia	3-27-10
28	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
28	at Texas A&M	1-10-15
28	ALABAMA	3-4-14

TEAM GAME RECORDS CAL ERA

28	vs. Vanderbilt	3-11-12
28	HARTFORD	12-29-09
27	GEORGIA	3-1-12
27	vs. UConn	4-2-11

FEWEST 3-POINT ATTEMPTS

3s.	Opp.	Date
5	vs. Wisconsin	4-4-15
5	vs. Wisconsin	4-5-14
5	at Tennessee	1-14-12
6	FLORIDA	3-7-15
6	Vanderbilt	1-20-15
7	at Missouri	1-29-15
7	PROVIDENCE	11-30-14
7	vs. Louisville	3-31-12
7	at Indiana	12-10-11

MOST REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
59	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
59	ARKANSAS	1-23-10
57	LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
56	ROBERT MORRIS	11-17-13
54	NJIT	11-14-15
53	TROY	11-20-17
53	at Texas A&M	1-10-15
53	MONTANA STATE	11-23-14
53	at Mississippi State	2-16-10
53	at LSU	2-6-10

FEWEST REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
21	ALABAMA	1-31-15
21	at Tennessee	2-16-13
22	vs. Wisconsin	4-4-15
24	GEORGIA	2-3-15
24	NORTH CAROLINA	12-13-14
24	TENNESSEE	1-18-14
25	vs. Baylor	12-6-13
25	at Robert Morris	3-19-13

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
26	ARKANSAS	2-27-14
24	GRAND CANYON	11-14-14
24	vs. West Virginia	3-27-10
22	NJIT	11-14-15
22	at Auburn	2-2-14
22	ARKANSAS	1-23-10
21	at West Virginia	1-27-18
21	VALPARAISO	12-7-16
21	COLUMBIA	12-10-14
21	at South Carolina	3-1-14
21	BAYLOR	12-1-12
21	at Indiana	12-12-09

FEWEST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
1	vs. Alabama	3-10-18
3	at South Carolina	1-24-14
5	GEORGIA	2-3-15
5	ALABAMA	1-31-15
5	MISSISSIPPI STATE	2-15-11
5	GEORGIA	1-29-11

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
39	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
39	ROBERT MORRIS	11-17-13
39	EASTERN MICHIGAN	1-2-13
38	TROY	11-20-17
38	vs. Hampton	3-19-15
38	EASTERN KENTUCKY	12-7-14
38	vs. Cleveland State	11-24-09
37	at Texas A&M	1-10-15
37	LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
37	ARKANSAS	1-23-10
36	vs. FLORIDA	2-25-17
36	at Florida	3-1-16
36	RADFORD	11-23-11
36	MARIST	11-11-11

FEWEST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
9	at Tennessee	2-16-13
13	NORTH CAROLINA	12-13-14
15	vs. Baylor	12-6-13
15	at Alabama	1-18-11
16	vs. Wisconsin	4-4-15
16	ALABAMA	1-31-15
16	TEXAS A&M	1-12-13
16	at Auburn	1-11-12
16	vs. UConn	11-24-10

MOST ASSISTS

Assts.	Opp.	Date
33	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
30	HARTFORD	12-29-09
28	LIU-BROOKLYN	11-23-12
28	vs. UNC Asheville	11-30-09
25	CLEVELAND STATE	11-23-16
25	AUBURN	2-21-15
25	vs. UCLA	12-20-14
24	at Ole Miss	12-29-16
24	UT MARTIN	11-25-16
24	BOSTON	11-21-14
24	MARIST	11-11-11
24	vs. East Tennessee State	3-18-10

FEWEST ASSISTS

Assts.	Opp.	Date
5	LSU	2-22-14
6	at Florida	3-3-18
6	VANDERBILT	3-1-11
7	TENNESSEE	2-6-18
7	VANDERBILT	1-30-18
7	at South Carolina	1-16-18
7	at Florida	2-4-17
7	vs. Wisconsin	4-4-15
7	vs. Florida	3-13-15
7	ARKANSAS	2-27-14
7	at Auburn	2-12-14
7	BOISE STATE	12-10-13
7	vs. Vanderilt	3-15-13
7	VANDERBILT	2-20-13
7	at Tennessee	1-14-12
7	vs. Washington	11-23-10

MOST TURNOVERS

TOs.	Opp.	Date
24	MOREHEAD STATE	11-13-09
23	SAM HOUSTON STATE	11-19-09
22	ETSU	11-17-17
21	LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
21	vs. Old Dominion	11-20-11
21	NORTH CAROLINA	12-5-09
20	EASTERN MICHIGAN	11-27-13
20	ALBANY	11-13-15
20	vs. Cleveland State	11-24-09

FEWEST TURNOVERS

TOs.	Opp.	Date
3	at Georgia	3-3-15
3	at South Carolina	2-4-12
4	ALABAMA	2-23-16
4	COLUMBIA	12-10-14
4	vs. Wisconsin	4-5-14
4	PORTLAND	11-26-11
5	vs. Georgia	3-9-18
5	vs. Georgia	3-12-16
5	at Vanderbilt	2-27-16
5	ALABAMA	1-31-15

MOST BLOCKS

Blks.	Opp.	Date
18	ST. JOHN'S	12-1-11
15	vs. Stony Brook	3-17-16
14	at Georgia	3-3-10
13	vs. UCLA	12-20-14
13	at Ole Miss	1-29-13
13	ARKANSAS	1-17-12
13	vs. Kansas	11-15-11
13	MARIST	11-11-11

FEWEST BLOCKS

Blks.	Opp.	Date
1	vs. Georgia	3-9-18
1	at Vanderbilt	1-10-17
1	vs. Alabama	3-11-16
1	at LSU	1-5-16
1	WRIGHT STATE	11-20-15
1	ALABAMA	1-31-15
1	at Missouri	1-29-15
1	vs. Wisconsin	4-5-14
1	at Florida	3-8-14

MOST STEALS

Stls.	Opp.	Date
15	LAFAYETTE	11-16-12
13	OLE MISS	1-2-16
13	vs. UConn	12-9-09
12	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	11-11-16
12	BOSTON	11-24-15
12	NORTH CAROLINA	12-13-14
12	PROVIDENCE	11-30-14
12	LIPSCOMB	12-15-12
12	PORTLAND	11-26-11
12	vs. Cornell	3-25-10
12	GEORGIA	1-9-10
12	vs. UNC Asheville	11-30-09

FEWEST STEALS

Stls.	Opp.	Date
0	vs. Baylor	12-6-13
1	at West Virginia	1-27-18
1	vs. Michigan State	11-12-13
1	at Robert Morris	3-19-13
1	vs. West Virginia	3-19-11
1	FLORIDA	2-26-11

MOST PERSONAL FOULS

Fls.	Opp.	Date
33	at Kansas	1-30-16
32	at South Carolina	1-16-18
31	at Arkansas	1-14-14
31	at North Carolina	12-14-13
29	at Missouri	2-3-18
29	at South Carolina	3-1-14
28	VANDERBILT	1-30-10
27	vs. Hofstra	12-11-16
27	at Florida	3-1-16
27	at UCLA	12-3-15
27	vs. West Virginia	3-27-10

FEWEST PERSONAL FOULS

Fls.	Opp.	Date
7	HARTFORD	12-29-09
8	MONTANA STATE	11-23-14
8	LAFAYETTE	11-16-12
8	vs. Florida	3-10-12
8	vs. Princeton	3-17-11
8	WINTHROP	12-22-10
8	DREXEL	12-21-09
8	vs. UNC Asheville	11-30-09

HIGHEST FIELD-GOAL PCT.

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.677	LIU-BROOKLYN	11-23-12
.667	UIC	11-26-17
.647	AUBURN	2-21-15
.645	LAFAYETTE	11-16-12
.643	vs. Alabama	3-10-18
.643	vs. Providence	12-1-13
.614	SOUTH CAROLINA	2-5-13
.613	MARIST	11-11-11
.603	vs. Wake Forest	3-20-10
.603	HARTFORD	12-29-09

LOWEST FIELD-GOAL PCT.

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.269	at South Carolina	3-1-14
.281	at Texas A&M	1-10-15
.296	BAYLOR	12-1-12
.298	LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
.309	at Auburn	2-12-14
.313	at Missouri	2-3-18
.315	GEORGIA	12-31-17
.327	ALABAMA	3-4-14
.339	vs. UConn	4-2-11
.342	ARKANSAS	2-27-14

HIGHEST FREE-THROW PCT.

Pct.	Opp.	Date
1.000	FLORIDA	2-7-12
1.000	AUSTIN PEAY	12-19-09
.958	TENNESSEE	1-18-14
.955	at Florida	2-7-15
.946	vs. Indiana	3-23-12
.923	at Mississippi State	2-25-15
.900	vs. Wisconsin	4-4-15
.900	at Ole Miss	2-18-14
.895	DREXEL	12-21-09
.889	at Alabama	1-17-15
.889	TENNESSEE	1-31-12

min 10 attempts

LOWEST FREE-THROW PCT.

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.200	ETSU	11-17-17
.333	vs. UConn	4-2-11
.391	ETSU	11-12-10
.412	vs. Wake Forest	3-20-10
.435	at Vanderbilt	2-27-16
.471	at Texas A&M	2-10-18
.471	PROVIDENCE	11-30-14
.478	at Louisville	12-29-12
.500	vs. Georgia	3-9-18
.500	OLE MISS	1-2-16
.500	BOSTON	11-24-15
.500	vs. Georgia	3-15-14
.500	vs. Vanderbilt	3-15-13
.500	vs. Oklahoma	11-22-10

min 10 attempts

HIGHEST 3-POINT PERCENTAGE

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.700	at Florida	3-1-16
.692	DREXEL	12-21-09
.667	vs. Alabama	3-10-18
.667	AUSTIN PEAY	12-19-09
.636	vs. Michigan	3-30-14
.625	MISSOURI	2-24-18
.625	BOSTON	11-30-10
.600	FLORIDA	2-6-16
.600	FLORIDA	2-7-12
.591	vs. Alabama	3-11-16

min 10 attempts

LOWEST 3-POINT PERCENTAGE

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.077	vs. Alabama	3-12-10
.083	TEXAS	12-5-14
.091	at South Carolina	1-16-18
.091	at Tennessee	2-27-10
.100	at Missouri	2-3-18
.100	TENNESSEE	1-31-12
.111	at Vanderbilt	1-10-17
.118	COLUMBIA	12-10-14
.125	vs. LSU	3-9-12
.125	vs. West Virginia	3-27-10
.125	vs. Cornell	3-25-10

min 10 attempts

HIGHEST REBOUND MARGIN

Mg.	Opp.	Date
+31	NJIT	11-14-15
+30	GRAND CANYON	11-14-14
+28	NORTHERN KY.	11-10-13
+27	vs. Little Rock	1-3-12
+26	vs. Arizona State	11-28-16
+26	LOUISVILLE	12-31-11
+25	EASTERN KENTUCKY	12-9-15
+25	EASTERN MICHIGAN	1-2-13
+25	at Indiana	12-12-09
+24	SOUTH CAROLINA	2-14-15

LOWEST REBOUND MARGIN

Mg.	Opp.	Date
-25	at Florida	2-4-17
-18	at Tennessee	2-16-13
-16	vs. Baylor	12-6-13
-16	vs. Maryland	11-9-12
-15	TENNESSEE	1-18-14
-14	at LSU	1-5-16
-12	vs. Wisconsin	4-4-15
-12	GEORGIA	2-3-15
-12	at South Carolina	1-24-14
-12	vs. Alabama	3-12-10
-11	at Kansas	1-30-16
-11	TEXAS	12-5-14

Quade Green

0

Freshman • G • 6-0 • 180 lbs • Philadelphia
Neumann-Goretti • Undeclared/Exploratory Studies in Agriculture

Bio Blast

- Pronunciation: KWAH-DAY
- Dished out a career-high eight assists vs. Alabama in the SEC Tournament semifinals
- Has made two 3s in seven of the last 11 and nine of the last 14
- Has scored in double figures in six of his last eight games
- Scored 10 or more in 17 games this year
- Hit three 3-pointers in four games this season
- Has at least three assists in 16 games and in five of the last eight
- Wove his way through multiple defenders in an end-to-end drive for the game-winning layup at home vs. Vanderbilt with four seconds remaining in overtime
- Five-star point guard prospect by Rivals, ESPN and Scout
- 2016 and 2017 Pennsylvania Class 3A Player of the Year
- On the USA Basketball 2016 FIBA Americas U18 Championship team that won a gold medal in Chile
- McDonald's High School All-American, Jordan Brand Classic & HoopHall Classic (MVP) participant
- Born 80 percent deaf and didn't speak for years but overcame those challenges with the help of auditory implants and speech therapists
- Enjoyed a prolific high school career that saw him capture four state championships, including a 22-point, eight-assist and two-steal performance in the title game during his senior season

Season Averages

Games played:	31
Minutes/game:	26.0
Points/game:	9.6
FG Pct:	45.8
3FG Pct:	38.0
FT Pct:	82.0
Rebounds/game:	1.8
Assists/game:	2.7
Turnovers/game:	1.6
Assist/turnover ratio:	1.7
Steals/game:	0.4

Season Highs

Points	21, vs. ETSU (11/17/17)
FG Made	9, vs. ETSU (11/17/17)
FG Attempts	14, at Tennessee (01/06/18)
3FG Made	3, 4x, last at Florida (03/03/18)
3FG Attempts	7, twice, last at Arkansas (02/20/18)
FT Made	6, vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)
FT Attempts	8, vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)
Rebounds	6, twice, last at Arkansas (02/20/18)
Assists	8, vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
Steals	2, twice, last vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Blocks	
Minutes	34, at Arkansas (02/20/18)

Career Highs

Points	21, vs. ETSU (11/17/17)
FG Made	9, vs. ETSU (11/17/17)
FG Attempts	14, at Tennessee (01/06/18)
3FG Made	3, 4x, last at Florida (03/03/18)
3FG Attempts	7, twice, last at Arkansas (02/20/18)
FT Made	6, vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)
FT Attempts	8, vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)
Rebounds	6, twice, last at Arkansas (02/20/18)
Assists	8, vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
Steals	2, twice, last vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Blocks	
Minutes	34, at Arkansas (02/20/18)

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds											
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17		21	0-4	.000	0-1	.000	4-4	1.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	1	0	0	0	4	4.0
VERMONT	11/12/17	*	26	6-11	.545	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	1	3	4	2.0	1	4	1	0	0	15	9.5
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17	*	21	2-7	.286	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	1.7	1	2	0	0	0	6	8.3
ETSU	11/17/17	*	26	9-13	.692	3-5	.600	0-1	.000	0	0	0	1.3	1	3	3	0	1	21	11.5
TROY	11/20/17	*	26	5-10	.500	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	0	3	3	1.6	2	3	3	0	0	13	11.8
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17	*	22	5-6	.833	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	2	2	4	2.0	1	5	3	0	0	11	11.7
UIC	11/26/17	*	21	5-7	.714	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	0	6	6	2.6	2	4	4	0	1	12	11.7
HARVARD	12/2/17	*	30	1-5	.200	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	2.5	2	5	2	0	1	2	10.5
vs Monmouth	12/9/17	*	16	4-6	.667	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1	2	3	2.6	2	5	1	0	0	9	10.3
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17		27	6-12	.500	2-5	.400	3-4	.750	1	0	1	2.4	1	5	1	0	0	17	11.0
vs UCLA	12/23/17	*	20	1-7	.143	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	2.2	0	2	3	0	0	2	10.2
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17	*	27	4-6	.667	3-4	.750	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	2.0	3	5	3	0	0	13	10.4
GEORGIA	12/31/17	*	25	4-10	.400	1-4	.250	6-8	.750	1	3	4	2.2	2	1	2	0	0	15	10.8
at LSU	01/03/18	*	31	3-6	.500	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	0	3	3	2.2	0	2	3	0	0	7	10.5
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18	*	33	5-14	.357	3-7	.429	1-2	.500	0	0	0	2.1	3	4	2	0	1	14	10.7
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at South Carolina	01/16/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA	01/20/18		17	1-8	.125	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.9	1	2	0	0	0	2	10.2
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18		20	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	4-4	1.000	0	0	0	1.8	1	0	1	0	0	4	9.8
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18		27	2-5	.400	2-4	.500	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	1.8	1	4	4	0	1	8	9.7
VANDERBILT	01/30/18		31	5-11	.455	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.7	3	0	1	0	0	12	9.8
at Mizzou	02/03/18		23	2-11	.182	1-6	.167	0-0	.000	1	1	2	1.8	1	0	1	0	2	5	9.6
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18		29	6-10	.600	2-3	.667	1-2	.500	0	4	4	1.9	0	0	2	0	0	15	9.9
at Texas A&M	02/10/18		26	3-7	.429	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	1	3	4	2.0	3	1	0	0	0	8	9.8
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18		24	2-5	.400	0-2	.000	3-4	.750	0	1	1	1.9	1	1	3	0	0	7	9.7
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18		31	5-6	.833	2-2	1.000	0-1	.000	2	0	2	1.9	3	4	0	0	1	12	9.8
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18		34	4-12	.333	2-7	.286	2-2	1.000	2	4	6	2.1	2	4	1	0	0	12	9.8
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18		29	5-6	.833	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	2.1	2	3	2	0	1	12	9.9
OLE MISS	02/28/18		30	7-12	.583	2-6	.333	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	2.0	2	4	1	0	2	18	10.2
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18		27	4-7	.571	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.0	3	0	1	0	0	11	10.3
vs Georgia	03/09/18		26	0-5	.000	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.9	3	1	0	0	0	0	9.9
vs Alabama	03/10/18		31	1-4	.250	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	1.9	1	8	0	0	0	2	9.6
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18		28	3-5	.600	0-1	.000	4-4	1.000	0	0	0	1.8	0	2	1	0	0	10	9.6
Totals		13	805	110-240	.458	38-100	.380	41-50	.820	13	44	57	1.8	49	85	49	0	11	299	9.6

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	17	10+ points	17
20+ points	1	20+ points	1
3+ assists	16	3+ assists	16
3+ steals	-	3+ steals	-
10+ rebounds	-	10+ rebounds	-
Double-doubles	-	Double-doubles	-
Dunks	-	Dunks	-

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18	31-13	805-26.0	110-240	.458	38-100	.380	41-50	.820	13-44-57-1.8	49-0	85	49	0	11	299	9.6
TOTAL	**31-13**	**805-26.0**	**110-240**	**.458**	**38-100**	**.380**	**41-50**	**.820**	**13-44-57-1.8**	**49-0**	**85**	**49**	**0**	**11**	**299**	**9.6**

Sacha Killeya-Jones

1

Sophomore • F • 6-10 • 221 lbs • Chapel Hill, N.C.
Virginia Episcopal • Communication

Season Averages

Games played:	31
Minutes/game:	13.5
Points/game:	3.3
FG Pct:	60.0
3FG Pct:	0.0
FT Pct:	52.9
Rebounds/game:	3.0
Assists/game:	0.3
Turnovers/game:	0.7
Assist/turnover ratio:	0.4
Steals/game:	0.2
Blocks/game:	0.6

Season Highs

Points	9, vs. HARVARD (12/02/17)
FG Made	4, twice, last vs. HARVARD (12/02/17)
FG Attempts	6, twice, last vs. ETSU (11/17/17)
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	1, vs. TEXAS A&M (01/09/18)
FT Made	4, vs. VERMONT (11/12/17)
FT Attempts	4, vs. VERMONT (11/12/17)
Rebounds	9, vs. Kansas (11/14/17)
Assists	3, at LSU (01/03/18)
Steals	2, twice, last vs. UCLA (12/23/17)
Blocks	3, twice, last vs. ETSU (11/17/17)
Minutes	25, vs. ETSU (11/17/17)

Career Highs

Points	12, vs. UT MARTIN (11/25/16)
FG Made	6, vs. UT MARTIN (11/25/16)
FG Attempts	8, vs. UT MARTIN (11/25/16)
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	1, vs. TEXAS A&M (01/09/18)
FT Made	4, vs. VERMONT (11/12/17)
FT Attempts	5, vs. CLEVELAND STATE (11/23/16)
Rebounds	9, vs. Kansas (11/14/17)
Assists	3, at LSU (01/03/18)
Steals	2, twice, last vs. UCLA (12/23/17)
Blocks	3, twice, last vs. ETSU (11/17/17)
Minutes	25, vs. ETSU (11/17/17)

Bio Blast

- Pronunciation: SAH-shuh kuh-LEE-uh
- Blocked two shots in each of the last two games, including two key rejections late in the SEC final
- Had one of his best games of the season vs. Alabama in the semifinals of the SEC Tournament, scoring six points, five rebounds and two blocks in 16 minutes
- John Calipari said of his effort vs. Alabama: "Waching him play, both on defense, offense, rebounding the ball, he's fighting. He makes us different."
- Played double-digit minutes in all three SEC Tournament games
- Was 4 of 4 from the field and scored a season-high nine points against Harvard. He also had two rebounds and two blocks in 18 minutes of action
- Played well against Kansas, notching career highs in rebounds (nine) and blocks (three)
- • Attended Great Britain's national training camp in August for FIBA EuroBasket 2017
- Made 15 appearances last season, but none after the Jan. 21 game vs South Carolina
- Scored 40 points, grabbed 31 rebounds and blocked 10 shots in his freshman season
- Posted 13 games with at least 20 points and 10 rebounds as a senior in high school
- Named the Virginia Player of the Year as a senior

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17		15	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	2	0	2	2.0	4	0	1	1	1	4	4.0
VERMONT	11/12/17		18	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	4-4	1.000	2	2	4	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5.0
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17		23	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	0-3	.000	4	5	9	5.0	3	2	0	3	0	8	6.0
ETSU	11/17/17		25	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	6	2	8	5.8	3	1	3	3	2	4	5.5
TROY	11/20/17		17	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	3	4	5.4	1	1	0	0	0	2	4.8
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17		10	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	5.0	2	0	1	1	0	4	4.7
UIC	11/26/17		12	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	4.7	1	0	1	0	0	2	4.3
HARVARD	12/2/17		18	4-4	1.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0	2	2	4.4	0	0	0	2	0	9	4.9
vs Monmouth	12/9/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17		7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	4.0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4.3
vs UCLA	12/23/17		6	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	2	1	3	3.9	3	0	0	0	2	2	4.1
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17		19	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	2-3	.667	2	2	4	3.9	4	0	0	0	0	8	4.5
GEORGIA	12/31/17		21	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	3.8	3	1	1	1	0	0	4.1
at LSU	01/03/18		12	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	2	3	5	3.8	0	3	1	0	0	2	3.9
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18		16	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	2	3	3.8	4	0	1	0	0	4	3.9
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18		19	1-2	.500	0-1	.000	2-3	.667	3	2	5	3.9	2	0	0	0	0	4	3.9
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18		15	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	3.8	3	0	0	1	1	4	3.9
at South Carolina	01/16/18		19	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	1-3	.333	0	3	3	3.7	4	0	1	1	0	5	4.0
FLORIDA	01/20/18		12	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	2	1	3	3.7	3	0	3	0	0	7	4.2
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18		10	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	2	1	3	3.6	0	0	1	0	0	2	4.1
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18		11	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.5	2	0	0	0	0	4	4.1
VANDERBILT	01/30/18		12	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	3.4	3	0	0	1	0	2	4.0
at Mizzou	02/03/18		21	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	2	2	4	3.5	4	0	1	0	0	4	4.0
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18		5	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	3.3	2	0	1	0	0	2	3.9
at Texas A&M	02/10/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18		5	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	3.3	1	0	1	0	0	0	3.7
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18		7	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	0	2	3.2	2	0	0	0	0	2	3.6
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18		5	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.1	2	0	0	0	1	0	3.5
OLE MISS	02/28/18		7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	3.1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3.4
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18		4	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.3
vs Georgia	03/09/18		11	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	2.9	3	0	0	0	0	1	3.2
vs Alabama	03/10/18		16	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	5	5	3.0	2	0	3	2	0	6	3.3
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18		20	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	1	3	3.0	3	0	0	2	0	2	3.3
Totals		0	418	42-70	.600	0-1	.000	18-34	.529	41	51	92	3.0	66	8	21	19	7	102	3.3

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	-	10+ points	1
20+ points	-	20+ points	-
3+ blocks	2	3+ blocks	2
3+ steals	-	3+ steals	-
10+ rebounds	-	10+ rebounds	-
Double-doubles	-	Double-doubles	-
Dunks	9	Dunks	13

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2016-17	15-0	96-6.4	17-29	.586	0-0	.000	6-15	.400	12-19-31-2.1	19-0	2	7	10	1	40	2.7
2017-18	31-0	418-13.5	42-70	.600	0-1	.000	18-34	.529	41-51-92-3.0	66-0	8	21	19	7	102	3.3
TOTAL	**46-0**	**514-11.2**	**59-99**	**.596**	**0-1**	**.000**	**24-49**	**.490**	**53-70-123-2.7**	**85-0**	**10**	**28**	**29**	**8**	**142**	**3.1**

Jarred Vanderbilt

2

Freshman • F • 6-9 • 214 lbs • Houston
Victory Prep Academy • Undeclared/Exploratory Studies in Agriculture

Bio Blast

- SEC Freshman of the Week Feb. 26
- Did not play in the SEC Tournament with a left leg injury
- Made his debut at South Carolina and is averaging 7.9 rebounds in 17.0 minutes per game
- Has begun to find his offensive role, averaging 8.8 points on 57.1 percent shooting over the last five games
- Has grabbed double-digit rebounds in three of the last six games
- Blocked at least two in three of the last six games
- Notched his first-career double-double vs. Mizzou, a game in which his 15 rebounds tied the most by a Wildcat this season
- Displayed his versatility late in the first half at South Carolina when he took over the "point forward" duties when Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Hamidou Diallo picked up two fouls apiece
- Missed the first 17 games of the season with a foot injury. Initially diagnosed to return in January but decided to delay surgery and re-evaluate
- Rated as one of the nation's top 20 prospects
- Averaged 28.5 points, 13.4 rebounds and 8.8 assists a game for Victory Prep Academy as a senior
- AAU teammate of former UK All-America guard De'Aaron Fox
- A McDonald's All-American and Jordan Brand Classic participant
- McDonald's High School All-American, Jordan Brand Classic and HoopHall Classic participant
- High school salutatorian for the Honor Society
- Returned to his hometown of Houston with Coach Calipari after the team raised $1 million for a telethon for Hurricane Harvey victims

Season Averages

Games played:	14
Minutes/game:	17.0
Points/game:	5.9
FG Pct:	42.6
3FG Pct:	0.0
FT Pct:	63.2
Rebounds/game:	7.9
Assists/game:	1.0
Turnovers/game:	1.1
Assist/turnover ratio:	0.9
Steals/game:	0.4
Blocks/game:	0.8

Season Highs

Points	11, 3x, last vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FG Made	4, 3x, last vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FG Attempts	10, vs. ALABAMA (02/17/18)
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	1, vs. TENNESSEE (02/06/18)
FT Made	6, at Mizzou (02/03/18)
FT Attempts	7, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
Rebounds	15, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
Assists	3, twice, last at Auburn (02/14/18)
Steals	1, 6x, last at Florida (03/03/18)
Blocks	3, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
Minutes	27, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)

Career Highs

Points	11, 3x, last vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FG Made	4, 3x, last vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FG Attempts	10, vs. ALABAMA (02/17/18)
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	1, vs. TENNESSEE (02/06/18)
FT Made	6, at Mizzou (02/03/18)
FT Attempts	7, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
Rebounds	15, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
Assists	3, twice, last at Auburn (02/14/18)
Steals	1, 6x, last at Florida (03/03/18)
Blocks	3, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
Minutes	27, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
at South Carolina	1/16/18		14	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	2-4	.500	1	4	5	5.0	2	3	2	1	0	6	6.0
RV/RV FLORIDA	01/20/18		13	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	4	6	5.5	2	0	0	0	0	4	5.0
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18		11	1-7	.143	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	4	3	7	6.0	2	0	0	1	0	2	4.0
at #7/7 West Virginia	1-27-18		11	0-5	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	7	4	11	7.3	1	2	1	0	0	1	3.3
VANDERBILT	01/30/18		7	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	2	3	6.4	3	0	1	0	1	3	3.2
at Mizzou	2-3-18		16	1-5	.200	0-0	.000	6-6	1.000	4	6	10	7.0	4	1	1	1	1	8	4.0
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18		15	2-3	.667	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	6.1	3	0	2	0	1	4	4.0
at Texas A&M	02/10/18		24	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	3	4	7	6.3	5	1	3	0	0	7	4.4
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18		21	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	8	10	6.7	3	3	0	2	0	3	4.2
RV/RV ALABAMA	2/17/18		19	4-10	.400	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	5	4	9	6.9	2	0	1	2	0	11	4.9
at Arkansas	02/20/18		19	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	6	3	9	7.1	3	0	1	0	1	11	5.5
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18		27	4-4	1.000	0-0	.000	3-7	.429	3	12	15	7.8	1	2	1	3	0	11	5.9
OLE MISS	02/28/18		24	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	1-3	.333	3	8	11	8.0	2	2	1	0	1	5	5.8
at rv/rv Florida	3/3/18		17	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	4	2	6	7.9	4	0	1	1	1	6	5.9
Totals		0	238	29-68	.426	0-1	.000	24-38	.632	46	64	110	7.9	37	14	15	11	6	82	5.9

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	3	10+ points	3
20+ points	-	20+ points	-
3+ blocks	1	3+ blocks	1
3+ assists	2	3+ assists	2
10+ rebounds	5	10+ rebounds	5
Double-doubles	-	Double-doubles	-
Dunks	8	Dunks	8

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18	14-0	238-17.0	29-68	.426	0-1	.000	24-38	.632	46-64-110-7.9	37-1	14	15	11	6	82	5.9
TOTAL	**14-0**	**238-17.0**	**29-68**	**.426**	**0-1**	**.000**	**24-38**	**.632**	**46-64-110-7.9**	**37-1**	**14**	**15**	**11**	**6**	**82**	**5.9**

Hamidou Diallo

3

RS-Freshman • G • 6-5 • 198 lbs • Queens, N.Y.
Putnam Science Academy • Undeclared/Exploratory Studies in Agriculture

Season Averages

Games played:	34
Minutes/game:	24.8
Points/game:	10.0
FG Pct:	41.3
3FG Pct:	33.8
FT Pct:	61.5
Rebounds/game:	3.5
Assists/game:	1.3
Turnovers/game:	1.4
Assist/turnover ratio:	0.9
Steals/game:	0.8
Blocks/game:	0.2

Season Highs

Points	23, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
FG Made	8, 3x, last vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
FG Attempts	18, vs. UCLA (12/23/17)
3FG Made	4, vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
3FG Attempts	7, vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
FT Made	6, 3x, last vs. TEXAS A&M (01/09/18)
FT Attempts	10, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Rebounds	10, twice, last vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)
Assists	4, twice, last vs. UIC (11/26/17)
Steals	3, vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
Blocks	2, twice, last vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
Minutes	39, at Vanderbilt (01/13/18)

Career Highs

Points	23, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
FG Made	8, 3x, last vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
FG Attempts	18, vs. UCLA (12/23/17)
3FG Made	4, vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
3FG Attempts	7, vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
FT Made	6, 3x, last vs. TEXAS A&M (01/09/18)
FT Attempts	10, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Rebounds	10, twice, last vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)
Assists	4, twice, last vs. UIC (11/26/17)
Steals	3, vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
Blocks	2, twice, last vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
Minutes	39, at Vanderbilt (01/13/18)

Bio Blast

- Pronunciation: HA-muh-dew dee-AH-low
- Scored 10 or more points in 15 games
- Scored seven points vs. Georgia in the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament, including a huge 3-pointer when the Dawgs cut the lead to 11 in the second half
- UK's fourth-leading scorer with a 10.0 average
- Hauled in at least three rebounds in 21 games
- Posted his first-career double-double in the SEC opener vs. Georgia
- SEC Freshman of the Week for Dec. 18 following 20-point, three-steal effort vs. Virginia Tech
- Preseason All-SEC pick by the media (first team) and the league's coaches (second team)
- Preseason watch list for three national player of the year awards: the Naismith Trophy, the Oscar Robertson Trophy and the Wooden Award ... On the preseason watch list for the Jerry West Award, presented annually by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to the nation's top shooting guard
- Tested the NBA Draft waters but decided to come back to school in May
- 2016-17 midyear enrollee. Joined UK in January from Putnam Science Academy in Connecticut
- Did not play in 2017-18 but became a key component in practice once he learned the system
- Participated in the 2017 FIBA U19 World Cup with USA Basketball, averaging 10.9 points and 3.9 rebounds in seven games

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17	*	25	8-16	.500	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	2	3	5	5.0	2	3	1	0	0	18	18.0
VERMONT	11/12/17	*	30	6-13	.462	1-2	.500	3-4	.750	0	1	1	3.0	4	3	0	1	1	16	17.0
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17	*	30	4-11	.364	0-3	.000	6-7	.857	2	3	5	3.7	3	4	3	0	1	14	16.0
ETSU	11/17/17	*	27	3-7	.429	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	0	4	4	3.8	2	0	2	1	1	7	13.8
TROY	11/20/17	*	29	3-12	.250	0-1	.000	2-6	.333	3	7	10	5.0	3	1	2	0	1	8	12.6
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17	*	28	3-7	.429	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	0	4	4	4.8	4	3	2	0	1	8	11.8
UIC	11/26/17	*	26	8-11	.727	0-0	.000	3-3	1.000	1	2	3	4.6	3	4	3	0	1	19	12.9
HARVARD	12/2/17	*	26	7-16	.438	0-3	.000	5-6	.833	1	5	6	4.8	2	2	1	0	2	19	13.6
vs Monmouth	12/9/17	*	30	8-13	.615	1-2	.500	6-10	.600	1	3	4	4.7	2	1	1	0	2	23	14.7
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17	*	34	7-16	.438	4-7	.571	2-4	.500	2	3	5	4.7	2	2	3	0	3	20	15.2
vs UCLA	12/23/17	*	29	7-18	.389	1-5	.200	3-5	.600	0	4	4	4.6	3	1	2	0	0	18	15.5
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17	*	29	5-11	.455	1-2	.500	3-6	.500	1	5	6	4.8	2	0	1	0	2	14	15.3
GEORGIA	12/31/17	*	34	3-8	.375	0-1	.000	4-8	.500	3	7	10	5.2	3	0	0	0	1	10	14.9
at LSU	01/03/18	*	22	3-8	.375	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1	1	2	4.9	1	0	4	0	1	7	14.4
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18	*	16	2-5	.400	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	4	4	4.9	5	2	1	0	0	5	13.7
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18	*	34	6-9	.667	0-2	.000	6-9	.667	0	1	1	4.6	3	2	0	0	0	18	14.0
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18	*	39	2-7	.286	1-2	.500	5-8	.625	1	2	3	4.5	4	1	1	2	0	10	13.8
at South Carolina	01/16/18	*	25	1-5	.200	0-0	.000	3-6	.500	1	2	3	4.4	5	0	2	0	1	5	13.3
FLORIDA	01/20/18	*	31	3-8	.375	1-4	.250	1-2	.500	1	5	6	4.5	2	3	2	1	1	8	13.0
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18	*	27	3-8	.375	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0	7	7	4.7	2	2	3	2	2	6	12.7
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18	*	25	4-8	.500	1-1	1.000	4-5	.800	1	2	3	4.6	3	2	2	0	0	13	12.7
VANDERBILT	01/30/18	*	21	0-3	.000	0-1	.000	2-4	.500	0	1	1	4.4	0	1	0	0	0	2	12.2
at Mizzou	02/03/18	*	22	3-8	.375	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	1	2	3	4.3	5	0	2	0	0	8	12.0
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18	*	13	0-3	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	4.2	2	0	2	0	0	0	11.5
at Texas A&M	02/10/18	*	20	5-11	.455	1-4	.250	2-4	.500	1	1	2	4.1	4	0	0	0	0	13	11.6
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18	*	16	1-5	.200	0-1	.000	1-3	.333	0	2	2	4.0	2	0	4	0	0	3	11.2
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18	*	15	3-9	.333	0-1	.000	2-2	1.000	1	3	4	4.0	1	0	1	0	0	8	11.1
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18	*	10	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	3.9	2	0	1	0	1	2	10.8
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18	*	25	4-10	.400	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	3.8	2	2	0	1	1	11	10.8
OLE MISS	02/28/18	*	20	3-6	.500	2-3	.667	1-2	.500	1	0	1	3.7	2	0	0	0	1	9	10.7
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18	*	23	0-7	.000	0-3	.000	1-2	.500	3	1	4	3.7	1	1	1	0	1	1	10.4
vs Georgia	03/09/18	*	21	3-5	.600	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	3.7	1	0	0	0	1	7	10.3
vs Alabama	03/10/18	*	19	3-6	.500	1-2	.500	2-4	.500	0	1	1	3.6	5	1	1	0	0	9	10.3
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18	*	23	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	3.5	2	3	0	0	0	0	10.0
Totals		34	844	121-293	.413	25-74	.338	72-117	.615	30	90	120	3.5	89	44	48	8	26	339	10.0

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	15	10+ points	15
20+ points	2	20+ points	2
3+ assists	7	3+ assists	7
3+ steals	1	3+ steals	1
10+ rebounds	2	10+ rebounds	2
Double-doubles	1	Double-doubles	1
Dunks	14	Dunks	14

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18	34-34	844-24.8	121-293	.413	25-74	.338	72-117	.615	30-90-120-3.5	89-4	44	48	8	26	339	10.0
TOTAL	**34-34**	**844-24.8**	**121-293**	**.413**	**25-74**	**.338**	**72-117**	**.615**	**30-90-120-3.5**	**89-4**	**44**	**48**	**8**	**26**	**339**	**10.0**

Nick Richards

4

Freshman • F • 6-11 • 240 lbs • Kingston, Jamaica
The Patrick School • Undeclared/Exploratory Studies in Agriculture

Bio Blast

- Second on the team in blocks (33) and fourth in total rebounds with 158
- Scored in double figures seven times
- Had a breakout performance with his first double-double (25 points, 15 rebounds) vs. Fort Wayne
  - Became the third UK player in the Calipari era with 25 points and 15 rebounds in a game (Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame, (12/8/10); DeMarcus Cousins vs. Sam Houston State, 11/19/09)
  - Going 9 of 10 from the field vs. Fort Wayne, he became the first UK player to shoot at least 90 percent from in a game (min. 10 FG att.) since Alex Poythress vs. Lafayette on Nov. 16, 2012
- Ranked in the top 20 by the major recruiting services, including 247Sports (No. 15), ESPN (No. 17), and Rivals (No. 17)
- Joined UK players Karl-Anthony Towns and Isaiah Briscoe as other future Wildcat high school stars to lead their teams to the New Jersey Tournament of Champions when he led The Patrick School to a 64-45 win as a senior
- Played at the same high school as former Wildcat Michael Kidd-Gilchrist
- 2017 Mr. New Jersey Basketball
- Top wingspan on the team at 7-5

Season Averages

Games played:	34
Minutes/game:	15.4
Points/game:	5.4
FG Pct:	61.5
FT Pct:	72.5
Rebounds/game:	4.6
Assists/game:	0.3
Turnovers/game:	0.7
Assist/turnover ratio:	0.4
Steals/game:	0.1
Blocks/game:	1.0

Season Highs

Points	25, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
FG Made	9, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
FG Attempts	10, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	7, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
FT Attempts	7, twice, last vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)
Rebounds	15, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
Assists	2, vs. UCLA (12/23/17)
Steals	1, 3x, last vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Blocks	3, 4x, last vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
Minutes	26, 3x, last vs. TENNESSEE (02/06/18)

Career Highs

Points	25, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
FG Made	9, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
FG Attempts	10, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	7, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
FT Attempts	7, twice, last vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)
Rebounds	15, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
Assists	2, vs. UCLA (12/23/17)
Steals	1, 3x, last vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Blocks	3, 4x, last vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
Minutes	26, 3x, last vs. TENNESSEE (02/06/18)

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17	*	24	4-7	.571	0-0	.000	2-3	.667	2	1	3	3.0	3	0	2	3	1	10	10.0
VERMONT	11/12/17	*	13	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	2	4	3.5	2	1	0	0	0	2	6.0
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17	*	13	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	7	9	5.3	3	0	3	1	0	2	4.7
ETSU	11/17/17	*	11	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	0	3	3	4.8	3	0	0	0	0	2	4.0
TROY	11/20/17	*	12	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	4	4	8	5.4	2	0	0	0	0	8	4.8
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17	*	26	9-10	.900	0-0	.000	7-7	1.000	5	10	15	7.0	4	1	1	2	0	25	8.2
UIC	11/26/17	*	22	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	3-5	.600	1	2	3	6.4	1	1	0	3	0	11	8.6
HARVARD	12/2/17	*	20	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	2	5	7	6.5	3	1	0	3	0	9	8.6
vs Monmouth	12/9/17	*	18	5-7	.714	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	4	4	8	6.7	3	0	2	1	0	10	8.8
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17	*	22	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	2-4	.500	3	3	6	6.6	2	1	1	3	0	8	8.7
vs UCLA	12/23/17	*	26	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	5	6	6.5	1	2	2	1	0	7	8.5
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17	*	17	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	2	4	6	6.5	2	0	0	2	0	4	8.2
GEORGIA	12/31/17	*	3	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	6.0	2	0	1	0	0	0	7.5
at LSU	01/03/18	*	10	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	5.6	1	0	0	0	0	2	7.1
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18	*	24	4-4	1.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	6	8	5.8	1	0	0	1	0	9	7.3
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18	*	16	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	0	4	4	5.7	2	0	1	0	1	2	6.9
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18	*	12	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	5.5	3	0	1	2	0	4	6.8
at South Carolina	01/16/18	*	23	5-7	.714	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	2	2	4	5.4	5	0	1	1	0	12	7.1
FLORIDA	01/20/18	*	20	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	4-6	.667	4	5	9	5.6	0	1	2	2	0	8	7.1
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18	*	11	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	5.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.8
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18	*	20	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	5-6	.833	2	6	8	5.5	4	0	2	1	0	9	6.9
VANDERBILT	01/30/18	*	12	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	6-7	.857	3	3	6	5.5	3	0	0	2	0	10	7.0
at Mizzou	02/03/18	*	10	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0	2	2	5.4	2	0	1	0	0	3	6.8
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18	*	26	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	6	8	5.5	2	0	1	1	0	5	6.8
at Texas A&M	02/10/18	*	14	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	5.4	1	0	2	1	0	2	6.6
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18	*	13	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	4	5	5.3	2	0	0	1	0	4	6.5
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18	*	21	3-4	.750	0-0	.000	4-4	1.000	2	2	4	5.3	3	0	0	1	0	10	6.6
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18	*	7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	1	2	5.2	4	0	0	0	0	1	6.4
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18	*	9	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	5.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6.2
OLE MISS	02/28/18	*	7	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	3	4	5.0	2	0	0	0	1	0	6.0
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18	*	19	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	1	3	4	4.9	2	1	0	0	0	2	5.8
vs Georgia	03/09/18	*	6	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	4.8	1	0	1	0	0	0	5.7
vs Alabama	03/10/18	*	8	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	4.7	0	0	0	0	0	2	5.5
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18	*	7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	1	3	4.6	2	0	1	1	0	1	5.4
Totals		34	522	67-109	.615	0-0	.000	50-69	.725	53	105	158	4.6	72	9	25	33	3	184	5.4

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	7	10+ points	7
20+ points	1	20+ points	1
3+ blocks	4	3+ blocks	4
3+ steals	-	3+ steals	-
10+ rebounds	1	10+ rebounds	1
Double-doubles	1	Double-doubles	1
Dunks	27	Dunks	27

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18	34-34	522-15.4	67-109	.615	0-0	.000	50-69	.725	53-105-158-4.6	72-1	9	25	33	3	184	5.4
TOTAL	**34-34**	**522-15.4**	**67-109**	**.615**	**0-0**	**.000**	**50-69**	**.725**	**53-105-158-4.6**	**72-1**	**9**	**25**	**33**	**3**	**184**	**5.4**

Kevin Knox

5

Freshman • F • 6-9 • 215 lbs • Tampa, Fla.
Tampa Catholic • Undeclared/Exploratory Studies in Agriculture

Bio Blast

- SEC Co-Freshman of the Year, First Team All-SEC and SEC All-Freshman Team, as voted on by the league's coaches
- SEC All-Tournament Team
- Leads the team in scoring (15.6 per game) and 3-pointers made (56)
- Managed 18 points in the SEC Tournament final, his 11th straight double-figure performance. He's the first Wildcat to score in double figures in 11 straight games since De'Aaron Fox ended last year with a 12-game streak
- Has scored in double figures in all but six games, including team-high nine games with 20 or more
- Has 530 points this season, 12th most by a UK freshman in a season
- Scored 20 or more points in three straight during UK's four-game winning streak to end February
- Has a team-best two double-doubles (tied with PJ Washington)
- Scored a career-high 34 points at West Virginia, including sinking a career-high five 3-pointers. It was the most points this season for a UK player and tied Malik Monk (at Ole Miss) for the most points by a freshman on the road in school history
- Named Citizen Naismith National Player of the Week, Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week (USBWA), Wayman Tisdale Freshman of the Week (USBWA) and SEC Freshman of the Week for the week of Jan. 29 for his performances vs. Mississippi State and West Virginia

Season Averages

Games played:	34
Minutes/game:	32.3
Points/game:	15.6
FG Pct:	44.3
3FG Pct:	35.4
FT Pct:	76.8
Rebounds/game:	5.4
Assists/game:	1.4
Turnovers/game:	2.2
Assist/turnover ratio:	0.6
Steals/game:	0.9
Blocks/game:	0.3

Season Highs

Points	34, at West Virginia (01/27/18)
FG Made	11, at West Virginia (01/27/18)
FG Attempts	18, 2x, last vs. Georgia (03/09/18)
3FG Made	5, at West Virginia (01/27/18)
3FG Attempts	8, 3x, last at Arkansas (02/20/18)
FT Made	8, twice, last vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FT Attempts	10, twice, last at South Carolina (01/16/18)
Rebounds	11, at LSU (01/03/18)
Assists	4, 4x, last at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
Steals	4, vs. UTAH VALLEY (11/10/17)
Blocks	1, 9x, last vs. Tennessee (03/11/18)
Minutes	40, vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)

Career Highs

Points	34, at West Virginia (01/27/18)
FG Made	11, at West Virginia (01/27/18)
FG Attempts	18, 2x, last vs. Georgia (03/09/18)
3FG Made	5, at West Virginia (01/27/18)
3FG Attempts	8, 3x, last at Arkansas (02/20/18)
FT Made	8, twice, last vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FT Attempts	10, twice, last at South Carolina (01/16/18)
Rebounds	11, at LSU (01/03/18)
Assists	4, 4x, last at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
Steals	4, vs. UTAH VALLEY (11/10/17)
Blocks	1, 9x, last vs. Tennessee (03/11/18)
Minutes	40, vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17	*	37	3-13	.231	1-4	.250	5-6	.833	2	4	6	6.0	3	4	2	1	4	12	12.0
VERMONT	11/12/17	*	35	3-10	.300	1-4	.250	4-4	1.000	0	8	8	7.0	2	1	2	0	0	11	11.5
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17	*	37	8-13	.615	3-6	.500	1-2	.500	2	5	7	7.0	0	0	1	1	2	20	14.3
ETSU	11/17/17	*	34	6-13	.462	4-7	.571	1-4	.250	0	10	10	7.8	3	2	6	1	0	17	15.0
TROY	11/20/17	*	35	7-12	.583	1-3	.333	2-5	.400	1	4	5	7.2	2	1	2	0	1	17	15.4
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17	*	35	4-10	.400	1-3	.333	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	6.3	1	3	1	0	0	11	14.7
UIC	11/26/17	*	33	9-13	.692	0-4	.000	7-10	.700	0	2	2	5.7	1	1	2	1	1	25	16.1
HARVARD	12/2/17	*	36	7-13	.538	2-7	.286	4-4	1.000	2	5	7	5.9	2	1	3	1	1	20	16.6
vs Monmouth	12/9/17	*	31	1-9	.111	1-5	.200	1-2	.500	1	4	5	5.8	2	4	7	0	1	4	15.2
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17	*	35	7-15	.467	2-5	.400	5-6	.833	2	3	5	5.7	2	4	2	0	1	21	15.8
vs UCLA	12/23/17	*	35	6-12	.500	2-5	.400	1-2	.500	0	5	5	5.6	4	3	4	0	2	15	15.7
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17	*	17	2-8	.250	0-3	.000	4-5	.800	0	7	7	5.8	5	0	2	0	0	8	15.1
GEORGIA	12/31/17	*	28	2-10	.200	1-4	.250	2-3	.667	1	3	4	5.6	3	3	1	0	1	7	14.5
at LSU	01/03/18	*	35	7-12	.583	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	2	9	11	6.0	1	1	2	0	0	16	14.6
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18	*	31	1-9	.111	0-5	.000	4-4	1.000	0	5	5	5.9	4	0	2	1	0	6	14.0
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18	*	25	5-5	1.000	2-2	1.000	3-4	.750	0	2	2	5.7	2	0	4	0	0	15	14.1
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18	*	28	5-9	.556	0-2	.000	7-7	1.000	1	3	4	5.6	2	1	1	0	1	17	14.2
at South Carolina	01/16/18	*	39	6-16	.375	1-8	.125	8-10	.800	1	7	8	5.7	3	2	1	0	2	21	14.6
FLORIDA	01/20/18	*	25	4-10	.400	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0	4	4	5.6	3	1	3	0	1	9	14.3
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18	*	36	5-6	.833	4-4	1.000	5-6	.833	1	5	6	5.7	1	1	4	0	2	19	14.6
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18	*	35	11-17	.647	5-8	.625	7-8	.875	4	3	7	5.7	1	0	1	0	0	34	15.5
VANDERBILT	01/30/18	*	40	6-15	.400	2-6	.333	4-7	.571	1	7	8	5.8	2	0	1	0	1	18	15.6
at Mizzou	02/03/18	*	25	2-6	.333	0-2	.000	1-3	.333	2	1	3	5.7	3	1	2	0	0	5	15.1
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18	*	37	3-11	.273	0-3	.000	4-5	.800	0	3	3	5.6	0	1	0	0	1	10	14.9
at Texas A&M	02/10/18	*	36	7-15	.467	3-5	.600	1-1	1.000	0	5	5	5.6	2	4	1	0	0	18	15.0
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18	*	35	7-13	.538	3-7	.429	2-3	.667	0	5	5	5.5	2	1	2	0	1	19	15.2
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18	*	25	4-10	.400	1-3	.333	4-4	1.000	3	2	5	5.5	3	1	0	0	0	13	15.1
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18	*	38	8-18	.444	3-8	.375	4-5	.800	1	6	7	5.6	0	1	3	0	2	23	15.4
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18	*	24	6-13	.462	1-3	.333	8-8	1.000	1	0	1	5.4	4	0	2	1	1	21	15.6
OLE MISS	02/28/18	*	31	7-17	.412	2-5	.400	6-8	.750	0	4	4	5.4	2	1	3	0	1	22	15.8
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18	*	28	3-10	.300	1-5	.200	5-7	.714	1	3	4	5.3	2	0	1	0	1	12	15.7
vs Georgia	03/09/18	*	37	6-18	.333	2-6	.333	1-2	.500	2	7	9	5.4	1	2	0	1	0	15	15.7
vs Alabama	03/10/18	*	25	4-6	.667	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	5.3	4	2	4	0	2	11	15.5
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18	*	34	7-17	.412	3-7	.429	1-2	.500	2	5	7	5.4	1	1	4	1	0	18	15.6
Totals		34	1097	179-404	.443	56-158	.354	116-151	.768	33	150	183	5.4	73	48	76	9	30	530	15.6

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	27	10+ points	27
20+ points	9	20+ points	9
3+ assists	7	3+ assists	7
3+ steals	1	3+ steals	1
10+ rebounds	2	10+ rebounds	2
Double-doubles	2	Double-doubles	2
Dunks	18	Dunks	18

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18	34-34	1097-32.3	179-404	.443	56-158	.354	116-151	.768	33-150-183-5.4	73-1	48	76	9	30	530	15.6
TOTAL	**34-34**	**1097-32.3**	**179-404**	**.443**	**56-158**	**.354**	**116-151**	**.768**	**33-150-183-5.4**	**73-1**	**48**	**76**	**9**	**30**	**530**	**15.6**

Jonny David

10

Junior • G • 6-2 • 183 lbs • Pittsburgh
Mt. Lebanon • Kinesiology

Bio Blast

- Logged his first action of the season against Fort Wayne and UIC
- Played in all three exhibition games, scoring against Thomas More
- Appeared in seven games as a sophomore, totaling five points
- Appeared in 11 games during his freshman campaign
- SEC Academic Honor Roll member the past two years
- Dean's List in fall 2016
- 1,000-point scorer in high school
- His father was a letterwinner at the University of Pittsburgh while head coach John Calipari was an assistant coach

Season Averages

Games played	5
Minutes/game	0.8
Points/game	
FG Pct.	
3FG Pct.	
FT Pct.	
Rebounds/game	
Assists/game	
Turnovers/game	0.4
Assist/turnover ratio	
Steals/game	
Blocks/game	

Season Highs

Points	
FG Made	
FG Attempts	
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	
FT Attempts	
Rebounds	
Assists	
Steals	
Blocks	
Minutes	2, vs. UIC (11/26/17)

Career Highs

Points	5, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
FG Made	1, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
FG Attempts	1, four times, last vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
3FG Made	1, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
3FG Attempts	1, three times, last vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
FT Made	2, twice, last vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
FT Attempts	2, three times, last vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
Rebounds	
Assists	
Steals	
Blocks	
Minutes	3, vs. CLEVELAND ST. (11/23/16)

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VERMONT	11/12/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ETSU	11/17/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TROY	11/20/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
UIC	11/26/17		2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0.0
HARVARD	12/2/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Monmouth	12/9/17		0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs UCLA	12/23/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
GEORGIA	12/31/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at LSU	01/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at South Carolina	01/16/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA	01/20/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VANDERBILT	01/30/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Mizzou	02/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Texas A&M	02/10/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18		0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
OLE MISS	02/28/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Georgia	03/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Alabama	03/10/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		0	4	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0.0

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	-	10+ points	-
20+ points	-	20+ points	-
3+ assists	-	3+ assists	-
3+ steals	-	3+ steals	-
10+ rebounds	-	10+ rebounds	-
Double-doubles	-	Double-doubles	-
Dunks	-	Dunks	-

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2015-16	11-0	11-1.0	0-2	.00	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0-0-0-0.0	1-0	0	1	0	0	2	0.2
2016-17	7-0	11-1.6	1-2	.500	1-1	1.000	2-4	.500	0-0-0-0.0	0-0	0	3	0	0	5	0.7
2017-18	5-0	4-0.8	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0-0-0.0	1-0	0	2	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	**23-0**	**26-1.1**	**1-4**	**.250**	**1-3**	**.333**	**4-6**	**.667**	**0-0-0-0.0**	**2-0**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**0.3**

Brad Calipari

12

Sophomore • G • 6-0 •176 lbs • Franklin Lakes, N.J.
MacDuffie School • Pre-Marketing

Bio Blast

- Pronunciation: cal-uh-PEAR-ee
- Hit his first 3-pointer of the season against Missouri in Rupp Arena
- Has played limited minutes in 11 games this season, but did see significant action in both games vs. Texas A&M and at South Caroina
- Notched an assist at the end of the game vs. Louisville
- Played in all three exhibtion games, scoring a 3-pointer against Centre College
- Part of an international basketball trip with Global Sports Academy in Croatia
- Averaged 14.3 points, 6.5 assists and 3.3 rebounds a game in four games on the trip
- Played in 15 games scoring eight points as a freshman
- Spent two seasons at MacDuffie after starting his high-school career at Lexington Christian Academy
- Developed into a sharpshooter during his final season at MacDuffie, where he shot a team-high 47 percent from behind the 3-point line
- Averaged 15.3 points, 3.6 assists and 2.6 rebounds per game as a senior
- Finished his career as a 1,000-point scorer
- Aspires to be a coach one day

Season Averages

Games played:	11
Minutes/game:	2.5
Points/game:	0.3
FG Pct:	14.3
3FG Pct:	14.3
Rebounds/game:	0.2
Assists/game:	0.1
Turnovers/game:	0.2
Assist/turnover ratio:	0.5

Season Highs

Points	3, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FG Made	1, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FG Attempts	2, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
3FG Made	1, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
3FG Attempts	2, vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FT Made	
FT Attempts	
Rebounds	1, twice, last at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
Assists	1, vs. LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
Steals	
Blocks	
Minutes	6, last vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)

Career Highs

Points	3, 3x, last vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FG Made	1, 3x, last vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FG Attempts	3, twice, last vs. Arizona St. (11/28/16)
3FG Made	1, 3x, last vs. MIZZOU (02/24/18)
3FG Attempts	3, vs. CLEVELAND ST. (11/23/16)
FT Made	2, vs. CANISIUS (11/13/16)
FT Attempts	3, vs CANISIUS (11/13/16)
Rebounds	1, 5x, last at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
Assists	1, twice, last vs. LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
Steals	
Blocks	1, vs. CLEVELAND ST. (11/23/16)
Minutes	8, vs. CLEVELAND ST. (11/23/16)

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds									
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VERMONT	11/12/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ETSU	11/17/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TROY	11/20/17		2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17		3	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
UIC	11/26/17		3	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
HARVARD	12/2/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Monmouth	12/9/17		6	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs UCLA	12/23/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17		2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0
GEORGIA	12/31/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at LSU	01/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18		3	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at South Carolina	01/16/18		4	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
FLORIDA	01/20/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VANDERBILT	01/30/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Mizzou	02/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Texas A&M	02/10/18		2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18		1	1-2	.500	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.3
OLE MISS	02/28/18		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.3
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Georgia	03/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Alabama	03/10/18		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		0	28	1-7	.143	1-7	.143	0-0	.000	0	2	2	0.2	0	1	2	0	0	3	0.3

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	-	10+ points	-
20+ points	-	20+ points	-
3+ assists	-	3+ assists	-
3+ steals	-	3+ steals	-
10+ rebounds	-	10+ rebounds	-
Double-doubles	-	Double-doubles	-
Dunks	-	Dunks	-

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2016-17	15-0	45-3.0	2-13	.154	2-12	.167	2-5	.400	1-2-3-0.2	3-0	1	2	1	0	8	0.5
2017-18	11-0	28-2.5	1-7	.143	1-7	.143	0-0	.000	0-2-2-0.2	0-0	1	2	0	0	3	0.3
TOTAL	**26-0**	**73-2.8**	**3-20**	**.150**	**3-19**	**.158**	**2-5**	**.400**	**1-4-5-0.2**	**3-0**	**2**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**11**	**0.4**

Jemarl Baker

13

Freshman • G • 6-4 • 182 lbs • Menifee, Calif.
Eleanor Roosevelt • Undeclared/Exploratory Studies in Arts and Sciences

Bio Blast

- Pronunciation: like Jamal
- Underwent left knee surgery at the end of October. Has begun working out but no timetable has been set for his return
- Considered one of the premier shooters in the country whose range extends well beyond the college 3-point arc
- A consensus four-star prospect ranked among the top 100
- Averaged 17.1 points, 4.1 assists and 3.5 rebounds per game as a senior
- Led Roosevelt to its first-ever state title
- Honor-roll student in high school

Season Averages

Games played	
Minutes/game	
Points/game	
FG Pct	
3FG Pct	
FT Pct	
Rebounds/game	
Assists/game	
Turnovers/game	
Assist/turnover ratio	
Blocks/game:	

Season Highs

Points	
FG Made	
FG Attempts	
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	
FT Attempts	
Rebounds	
Assists	
Steals	
Blocks	
Minutes	

Career Highs

Points	
FG Made	
FG Attempts	
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	
FT Attempts	
Rebounds	
Assists	
Steals	
Blocks	
Minutes	

Game-By-Game

Superlatives

	Season Stats	Career Stats
10+ points	-	-
20+ points	-	-
3+ assists	-	-
3+ steals	-	-
10+ rebounds	-	-
Double-doubles	-	-
Dunks	-	-

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18																
TOTAL																

Tai Wynyard

14

RS-Sophomore • F • 6-10 • 250 lbs • Auckland, New Zealand
Rangitoto College • Undergraduate Studies

Bio Blast

- Pronunciation: tie WIN-yard
- Suspended from team-related activities for a violation of team rules until further notice
- Appeared in seven games in a row between Nov. 14 and Dec. 9. Hasn't played since Dec. 31 because of a back injury and is expected to miss the rest of the season due to the injury
- Played well in a season-high 12 minutes vs. Monmouth, trying his career high with four points while grabbing a career-high six boards. After the game, Calipari said of Wynyard: "One guy's misery is another guy's opportunity, and Tai was ready for his chance"
- Suited up for New Zealand at the 2017 FIBA U19 World Cup
- Averaged team highs in points (13.8) and rebounds (9.2) in six games for the Junior Tall Blacks
- Made 15 appearances in his redshirt freshman campaign
- Scored 11 points, had 13 rebounds and three blocks, while averaging 3.6 minutes a game
- Redshirted after enrolling midyear during the 2015-16 season
- Played for the New Zealand National Team in the FIBA 3-on-3 World Championships for a second-straight year this summer
- Was the most valuable player in the 3-on-3 tournament in 2015 when he lead New Zealand to a gold medal
- Was the youngest player to ever make the New Zealand National Team roster

Season Averages

Games played	8
Minutes/game	5.4
Points/game	1.0
FG Pct	42.9
3FG Pct	
FT Pct	100.0
Rebounds/game	1.8
Assists/game	
Turnovers/game	0.4
Steals/game	0.4
Blocks/game:	0.1

Season Highs

Points	4, twice, last vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
FG Made	2, vs. UIC (11/26/17)
FG Attempts	2, twice, last vs. UIC (11/26/17)
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	2, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
FT Attempts	2, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Rebounds	6, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Assists	
Steals	2, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Blocks	1, vs. ETSU (11/17/17)
Minutes	12, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)

Career Highs

Points	4, 3x, last vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
FG Made	2. twice, last. vs. UIC (11/26/17)
FG Attempts	2, 3x, last vs. UIC (11/26/17)
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	2, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
FT Attempts	2, twice, last vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Rebounds	6, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Assists	1, vs. UT MARTIN (11/25/16)
Steals	2, vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Blocks	1, four times, last vs. ETSU (11/17/17)
Minutes	12, twice, last vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VERMONT	11/12/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17		7	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
ETSU	11/17/17		3	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
TROY	11/20/17		3	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	1	3	1.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17		4	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
UIC	11/26/17		5	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	1.4	1	0	0	0	0	4	0.8
HARVARD	12/2/17		2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.7
vs Monmouth	12/9/17		12	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	2	4	6	1.9	3	0	2	0	2	4	1.1
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs UCLA	12/23/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GEORGIA	12/31/17		7	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	1.8	1	0	0	0	1	0	1.0
at LSU	01/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at South Carolina	01/16/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA	01/20/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VANDERBILT	01/30/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Mizzou	02/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Texas A&M	02/10/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OLE MISS	02/28/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Georgia	03/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Alabama	03/10/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		0	43	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	6	8	14	1.8	8	0	3	1	3	8	1.0

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	-	10+ points	-
20+ points	-	20+ points	-
3+ blocks	-	3+ blocks	-
3+ steals	-	3+ steals	-
10+ rebounds	-	10+ rebounds	-
Double-doubles	-	Double-doubles	-
Dunks	1	Dunks	1

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2016-17	15-0	54-3.6	5-6	.833	0-0	.000	1-3	.333	5-8-13-0.9	11-0	1	2	3	1	11	0.7
2017-18	8-0	43-5.4	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	6-8-14-1.8	8-0	0	3	1	3	8	1.0
TOTAL	**23-0**	**97-4.2**	**8-13**	**.615**	**0-0**	**.000**	**3-5**	**.600**	**11-16-27-1.2**	**19-0**	**1**	**5**	**4**	**4**	**19**	**0.8**

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

22

Freshman • G • 6-6 • 180 lbs • Hamilton, Canada
Hamilton Heights • Undeclared/Exploratory Studies in Agriculture

Season Averages

Games played:	34
Minutes/game:	33.3
Points/game:	13.9
FG Pct:	48.5
3FG Pct:	39.6
FT Pct:	80.8
Rebounds/game:	3.9
Assists/game:	5.0
Turnovers/game:	2.6
Assist/turnover ratio:	1.9
Steals/game:	1.6
Blocks/game:	0.5

Season Highs

Points	30, vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)
FG Made	12, vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)
FG Attempts	19, vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)
3FG Made	2, 5x, last vs. Tennessee (03/11/18)
3FG Attempts	4, 2x, last vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
FT Made	12, vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)
FT Attempts	13, twice, last vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Rebounds	7, 3x, last vs. Tennessee (03/11/18)
Assists	10, vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Steals	4, twice, last vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
Blocks	3, vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Minutes	39, 4x, last at Arkansas (02/20/18)

Career Highs

Points	30, vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)
FG Made	12, vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)
FG Attempts	19, vs. VANDERBILT (01/30/18)
3FG Made	2, 5x, last vs. Tennessee (03/11/18)
3FG Attempts	4, 2x, last vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
FT Made	12, vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)
FT Attempts	13, twice, last vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Rebounds	7, 3x, last vs. Tennessee (03/11/18)
Assists	10, vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Steals	4, twice, last vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
Blocks	3, vs. OLE MISS (02/28/18)
Minutes	39, 4x, last at Arkansas (02/20/18)

Bio Blast

- Pronunciation: shay GILL-juss
- SEC Tournament MVP, having averaged 21 points, five rebounds and 6.7 assists in three games
- Second Team All-SEC and SEC All-Freshman Team, as voted on by the league's coaches
- Poured in 29 points, one off his career high, with a career-high-tying seven boards in the SEC final
- Averaging 18.4 points and seven assists over the last seven games
- Notched his first career double-double with 17 points and 10 assists vs. Ole Miss on Feb. 28. The assists along with rebounds (seven) and blocks (three) were all career highs
- Has started each of the past 19 games, averaging 15.7 points and 5.7 assists per game during that stretch.
- Has five or more assists in 13 of the 19 games
- Has played 39 minutes four times and more than 35 19 times, including 12 of the last 14
- Leads the team in assists (171) and steals (54)
- Scored in double figures in 18 of the last 23 games, including seven in a row
- Has tallied at least three assists in all but three games this season
  - Has at least four assists in 21 of the last 25
- Originally from Canada, Gilgeous-Alexander was a member of the 2016 Canadian Men's U18 National Team that captured the silver medal at the 2016 FIBA Americas U18 Championship
- Mom competed in track at Alabama and at the 1992 Summer Olympics for Canada
- 7-foot wingspan
- Scored a career-high 30 points, including 24 after halftime and the game-tying free throws at the

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17	*	36	5-9	.556	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	0	3	3	3.0	0	4	3	0	4	13	13.0
VERMONT	11/12/17		23	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	1	2	2.5	3	3	3	1	2	4	8.5
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17		27	3-7	.429	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	4	4	3.0	3	3	6	0	3	6	7.7
ETSU	11/17/17		27	4-6	.667	1-1	1.000	1-1	1.000	1	1	2	2.8	1	6	2	0	2	10	8.3
TROY	11/20/17		27	2-5	.400	0-1	.000	2-2	1.000	0	5	5	3.2	1	2	3	0	1	6	7.8
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17		26	5-8	.625	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	2	3	3.2	3	4	2	0	4	11	8.3
UIC	11/26/17		28	6-10	.600	1-1	1.000	1-3	.333	1	4	5	3.4	3	6	2	0	2	14	9.1
HARVARD	12/2/17		28	2-8	.250	0-2	.000	8-8	1.000	1	3	4	3.5	0	3	2	1	2	12	9.5
vs Monmouth	12/9/17		32	4-8	.500	2-4	.500	5-6	.833	1	5	6	3.8	1	9	3	0	1	15	10.1
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17	*	21	3-5	.600	1-1	1.000	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	3.4	3	1	0	0	2	9	10.0
vs UCLA	12/23/17		31	3-7	.429	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	3.4	2	5	1	0	1	6	9.6
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17		33	9-16	.563	1-2	.500	5-6	.833	2	3	5	3.5	0	4	1	0	3	24	10.8
GEORGIA	12/31/17		33	4-9	.444	1-1	1.000	12-13	.923	3	2	5	3.6	0	4	1	2	3	21	11.6
at LSU	01/03/18		32	7-16	.438	1-2	.500	3-3	1.000	0	2	2	3.5	1	4	3	1	2	18	12.1
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18		38	1-6	.167	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	1	3	3.5	0	6	5	0	2	3	11.5
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18	*	39	6-10	.600	0-0	.000	4-6	.667	1	6	7	3.7	1	5	3	2	1	16	11.8
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18	*	39	7-11	.636	1-1	1.000	7-10	.700	0	4	4	3.7	3	6	3	0	0	22	12.4
at South Carolina	01/16/18	*	28	3-9	.333	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	3.7	4	0	6	1	0	6	12.0
FLORIDA	01/20/18	*	35	4-12	.333	1-1	1.000	1-2	.500	0	4	4	3.7	2	6	4	0	1	10	11.9
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18	*	35	6-15	.400	0-3	.000	4-4	1.000	0	4	4	3.7	1	6	0	0	0	16	12.1
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18	*	32	3-7	.429	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	0	5	5	3.8	2	5	4	2	0	6	11.8
VANDERBILT	01/30/18	*	38	12-19	.632	1-1	1.000	5-5	1.000	0	1	1	3.6	3	3	3	1	1	30	12.6
at Mizzou	02/03/18	*	35	5-16	.313	0-3	.000	5-5	1.000	2	0	2	3.6	3	6	2	0	2	15	12.7
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18	*	39	5-10	.500	0-3	.000	5-8	.625	0	6	6	3.7	1	6	3	1	2	15	12.8
at Texas A&M	02/10/18	*	38	9-12	.750	0-0	.000	1-3	.333	0	3	3	3.6	0	8	4	2	2	19	13.1
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18	*	34	4-11	.364	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	3	2	5	3.7	4	3	3	0	1	9	12.9
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18	*	38	2-10	.200	0-1	.000	2-2	1.000	2	2	4	3.7	0	4	1	0	3	6	12.7
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18	*	39	6-12	.500	2-3	.667	4-4	1.000	2	3	5	3.8	0	7	2	0	0	18	12.9
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18	*	36	4-6	.667	2-3	.667	4-4	1.000	0	5	5	3.8	2	8	1	0	1	14	12.9
OLE MISS	02/28/18	*	37	3-8	.375	0-0	.000	11-13	.846	1	6	7	3.9	1	10	4	3	1	17	13.0
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18	*	37	7-14	.500	1-2	.500	2-4	.500	0	2	2	3.8	1	4	5	1	0	17	13.2
vs Georgia	03/09/18	*	37	7-15	.467	0-3	.000	1-2	.500	2	2	4	3.8	1	9	1	0	2	15	13.2
vs Alabama	03/10/18	*	38	4-7	.571	2-4	.500	9-12	.750	0	4	4	3.8	3	8	1	0	1	19	13.4
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18	*	37	10-16	.625	2-3	.667	7-7	1.000	1	6	7	3.9	2	3	3	0	2	29	13.9
Totals		21	1133	166-342	.485	21-53	.396	118-146	.808	28	106	134	3.9	55	171	90	18	54	471	13.9

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	24	10+ points	24
20+ points	5	20+ points	5
3+ assists	31	3+ assists	31
3+ steals	6	3+ steals	6
10+ rebounds	-	10+ rebounds	-
Double-doubles	1	Double-doubles	1
Dunks	9	Dunks	9

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18	34-21	1133-33.3	166-342	.485	21-53	.396	118-146	.808	28-106-134-3.9	55-0	171	90	18	54	471	13.9
TOTAL	**34-21**	**1133-33.3**	**166-342**	**.485**	**21-53**	**.396**	**118-146**	**.808**	**28-106-134-3.9**	**55-0**	**171**	**90**	**18**	**54**	**471**	**13.9**

PJ Washington

25

Freshman • F • 6-7 • 236 lbs • Dallas
Findlay Prep• Undeclared/Exploratory Studies in Communication

Bio Blast

- Started all three games in the SEC Tournament
- Has scored double figures in eight of the last nine
- Grabbed at least five rebounds in each of the last 10 games
- Leads the team in total rebounds with 181
- Tied with Kevin Knox for the team lead with two double-doubles
- Third on the team in blocks with 30
- Scored 10 or more in 10 of 14 games from Nov. 26 to Jan. 23
- Scored a career-high 22 points in the win vs. Mississippi State
- Said to have lost 15 pounds in the two and a half weeks leading up to the Monmouth game, in which he had his first career 20-point game in addition to four blocks
- Posted a double-double against Vermont, the Wildcats' first of the season
- On the preseason watch list for the Karl Malone Award, presented annually by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to the nation's top power forward
- Rated as high as the No. 12 overall prospect in the class of 2017 rankings by ESPN
- All-USA Boys Basketball Second Team
- Played in the 2017 McDonald's All American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic
- Won most valuable player honors at the inaugural Allen Iverson Roundball Classic

Season Averages

Games played:	34
Minutes/game:	27.1
Points/game:	10.6
FG Pct:	50.8
3FG Pct:	23.8
FT Pct:	62.4
Rebounds/game:	5.5
Assists/game:	1.6
Turnovers/game:	1.9
Assist/turnover ratio:	0.8
Steals/game:	0.7
Blocks/game:	0.9

Season Highs

Points	22, vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
FG Made	8, 2x, last vs. Georgia (03/09/18)
FG Attempts	14, vs. VERMONT (11/12/17)
3FG Made	1, 5x, last vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
3FG Attempts	2, 5x, last at Mizzou (02/03/18)
FT Made	10, vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
FT Attempts	14, vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
Rebounds	10, twice, last at Arkansas (02/20/17)
Assists	5, vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
Steals	3, twice, last vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
Blocks	4, twice, last vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Minutes	38, at Vanderbilt (01/13/18)

Career Highs

Points	22, vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
FG Made	8, 2x, last vs. Georgia (03/09/18)
FG Attempts	14, vs. VERMONT (11/12/17)
3FG Made	1, 5x, last vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
3FG Attempts	2, 5x, last at Mizzou (02/03/18)
FT Made	10, vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
FT Attempts	14, vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
Rebounds	10, twice, last at Arkansas (02/20/17)
Assists	5, vs. VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
Steals	3, twice, last vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/23/18)
Blocks	4, twice, last vs. Monmouth (12/09/17)
Minutes	38, at Vanderbilt (01/13/18)

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17	*	19	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	3-6	.500	1	2	3	3.0	2	2	4	0	0	5	5.0
VERMONT	11/12/17	*	35	7-14	.500	0-0	.000	3-7	.429	2	8	10	6.5	2	2	2	1	0	17	11.0
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17	*	24	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	5.0	3	3	4	4	0	2	8.0
ETSU	11/17/17	*	29	6-8	.750	0-0	.000	0-5	.000	5	3	8	5.8	5	4	6	1	0	12	9.0
TROY	11/20/17	*	22	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	3	5	8	6.2	3	4	4	0	0	4	8.0
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17	*	25	2-5	.400	0-1	.000	3-8	.375	1	2	3	5.7	1	0	0	0	0	7	7.8
UIC	11/26/17	*	24	6-7	.857	0-0	.000	5-7	.714	1	4	5	5.6	3	4	1	1	0	17	9.1
HARVARD	12/2/17	*	18	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	4	5	5.5	5	1	1	0	0	3	8.4
vs Monmouth	12/9/17	*	32	5-8	.625	1-2	.500	9-9	1.000	2	4	6	5.6	2	1	3	4	0	20	9.7
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17	*	33	4-10	.400	1-2	.500	2-4	.500	2	3	5	5.5	1	5	2	1	1	11	9.8
vs UCLA	12/23/17	*	27	3-8	.375	0-1	.000	3-3	1.000	3	1	4	5.4	0	1	0	1	1	9	9.7
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17	*	31	5-10	.500	0-1	.000	6-6	1.000	2	5	7	5.5	1	2	2	1	0	16	10.3
GEORGIA	12/31/17	*	15	2-5	.400	0-1	.000	3-6	.500	1	1	2	5.2	5	1	0	2	1	7	10.0
at LSU	01/03/18	*	36	8-11	.727	0-1	.000	2-4	.500	3	3	6	5.3	3	2	1	2	0	18	10.6
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18	*	23	6-8	.750	0-1	.000	1-3	.333	0	3	3	5.1	1	1	2	2	3	13	10.7
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18	*	32	5-11	.455	1-2	.500	5-10	.500	1	3	4	5.1	4	3	0	0	2	16	11.1
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18	*	38	2-4	.500	1-1	1.000	5-8	.625	3	5	8	5.2	2	2	4	0	0	10	11.0
at South Carolina	01/16/18	*	33	2-3	.667	0-1	.000	6-10	.600	0	2	2	5.1	4	2	2	0	2	10	10.9
FLORIDA	01/20/18	*	28	3-10	.300	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	3	4	7	5.2	1	0	1	1	1	6	10.7
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18	*	31	6-10	.600	0-2	.000	10-14	.714	2	4	6	5.2	2	2	2	2	3	22	11.3
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18	*	11	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	5.0	3	0	2	1	0	2	10.8
VANDERBILT	01/30/18		33	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	4	5	5.0	2	3	1	0	2	6	10.6
at Mizzou	02/03/18	*	30	2-8	.250	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	3	4	7	5.1	3	1	1	0	1	4	10.3
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18	*	17	0-3	.000	0-1	.000	4-4	1.000	1	2	3	5.0	4	0	2	1	0	4	10.0
at Texas A&M	02/10/18	*	22	1-6	.167	0-0	.000	3-7	.429	2	6	8	5.2	1	1	2	1	0	5	9.8
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18		27	4-9	.444	0-0	.000	5-6	.833	1	4	5	5.2	4	0	1	1	0	13	10.0
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18		28	5-9	.556	0-0	.000	6-9	.667	2	3	5	5.1	2	1	5	0	0	16	10.2
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18		31	6-10	.600	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	2	8	10	5.3	3	3	3	2	2	13	10.3
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18		29	3-6	.500	0-0	.000	6-9	.667	2	3	5	5.3	3	2	1	0	0	12	10.3
OLE MISS	02/28/18		20	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	2-4	.500	2	3	5	5.3	2	0	1	1	1	10	10.3
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18		23	5-9	.556	0-0	.000	3-5	.600	3	4	7	5.4	4	0	2	0	1	13	10.4
vs Georgia	03/09/18	*	35	8-12	.667	0-0	.000	2-4	.500	2	5	7	5.4	2	1	2	0	1	18	10.7
vs Alabama	03/10/18	*	37	4-7	.571	1-1	1.000	5-8	.625	0	8	8	5.5	1	1	0	0	0	14	10.8
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18	*	23	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	5-7	.714	0	5	5	5.5	4	0	1	0	1	5	10.6
Totals		27	921	121-238	.508	5-21	.238	113-181	.624	58	128	186	5.5	88	55	65	30	23	360	10.6

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	20	10+ points	20
20+ points	2	20+ points	2
3+ blocks	2	3+ blocks	2
3+ assists	8	3+ assists	8
10+ rebounds	2	10+ rebounds	2
Double-doubles	2	Double-doubles	2
Dunks	34	Dunks	34

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18	34-27	921-27.1	121-238	.508	5-21	.238	113-181	.624	58-128-186-5.5	88-3	55	65	30	23	360	10.6
TOTAL	**34-27**	**921-27.1**	**121-238**	**.508**	**5-21**	**.238**	**113-181**	**.624**	**58-128-186-5.5**	**88-3**	**55**	**65**	**30**	**23**	**360**	**10.6**

Dillon Pulliam

30

RS-Junior • G • 6-3 • 195 lbs • Cynthiana, Ky.

Transylvania University • Computer Engineering

Bio Blast

- Made his first two appearances of the season in consecutive games at the end of November, against Fort Wayne and UIC
- Made six appearances during the 2016-17 season
- Sat out the 2015-16 season due to NCAA transfer rules
- Played his freshman season at Transylvania University where he averaged 4.8 points and 3.4 rebounds per game
- SEC Academic Honor Roll member
- Dean's List for the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters
- Took a mission trip to Belize during summer 2016 with Sports Reach

Season Averages

Games played	4
Minutes/game	0.8
Points/game	
FG Pct.	
3FG Pct.	
FT Pct.	
Rebounds/game	
Assists/game	
Turnovers/game	
Assist/turnover ratio	
Steals/game	
Blocks/game	

Season Highs

Points	
FG Made	
FG Attempts	
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	
FT Attempts	
Rebounds	
Assists	
Steals	
Blocks	
Minutes	1,3x, last vs. LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)

Career Highs

Points	
FG Made	
FG Attempts	1, vs. Arizona St. (11/28/16)
3FG Made	
3FG Attempts	
FT Made	
FT Attempts	
Rebounds	1, vs. DUQUESNE (11/20/16)
Assists	1, vs. DUQUESNE (11/20/16)
Steals	
Blocks	
Minutes	2, three times, last vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/7)

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VERMONT	11/12/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ETSU	11/17/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TROY	11/20/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
UIC	11/26/17		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
HARVARD	12/2/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Monmouth	12/9/17		0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs UCLA	12/23/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
GEORGIA	12/31/17		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at LSU	01/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at South Carolina	01/16/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA	01/20/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VANDERBILT	01/30/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Mizzou	02/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Texas A&M	02/10/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OLE MISS	02/28/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Georgia	03/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Alabama	03/10/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		0	3	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0

Superlatives

Season Stats		Career Stats	
10+ points	-	10+ points	-
20+ points	-	20+ points	-
3+ assists	-	3+ assists	-
3+ steals	-	3+ steals	-
10+ rebounds	-	10+ rebounds	-
Double-doubles	-	Double-doubles	-
Dunks	-	Dunks	-

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2016-17	6-0	8-1.3	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-1-1-0.2	0-0	1	1	0	0	0	0.0
2017-18	4-0	3-0.8	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0-0-0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	**10-0**	**11-1.1**	**0-1**	**.000**	**0-0**	**.000**	**0-0**	**.000**	**0-1-1-0.1**	**0-0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**

Wenyen Gabriel

32

Sophomore • F • 6-9 • 205 lbs • Manchester, N.H.
Wilbraham & Monson Academy • Pre-Communication

Season Averages

Games played:	34
Minutes/game:	22.6
Points/game:	6.8
FG Pct:	45.0
3FG Pct:	39.8
FT Pct:	60.0
Rebounds/game:	5.2
Assists/game:	0.6
Turnovers/game:	1.2
Assist/turnover ratio:	0.5
Steals/game:	0.8
Blocks/game:	1.1

Season Highs

Points	23, vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
FG Made	7, vs. Alabama (03/10/18))
FG Attempts	13, vs. UTAH VALLEY (11/10/17)
3FG Made	7, vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
3FG Attempts	7, vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
FT Made	5, vs. TROY (11/20/17)
FT Attempts	6, vs. TROY (11/20/17)
Rebounds	13, vs. UTAH VALLEY (11/10/17)
Assists	3, twice, last at West Virginia (01/27/18)
Steals	3, 3x, last vs. Tennessee (03/11/18)
Blocks	3, 4x, last vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
Minutes	34, vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)

Career Highs

Points	23, 2x, last vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
FG Made	7, 2x, last vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
FG Attempts	13, vs. UTAH VALLEY (11/10/17)
3FG Made	7, vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
3FG Attempts	8 vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (1/21/17)
FT Made	6, twice, last vs. LSU (2/7/17)
FT Attempts	7, vs. LSU (2/7/17)
Rebounds	16, vs. AUBURN (1/14/17)
Assists	6, vs. CLEVELAND STATE (11/23/16)
Steals	3, 4x, last vs. Tennessee (01/11/18)
Blocks	3, 7x, last vs. Alabama (03/10/18)
Minutes	34, vs. GEORGIA (12/31/17)

Bio Blast

- Pronunciation: WHEN-yen
- SEC All-Tournament Team, having averaged 13.7 points, 4.7 rebounds and 1.7 blocked shots during the three games. Came up with a key offensive rebound and putback in the championship game
- Tied his career high with 23 points (also vs. LSU on Feb. 7, 2017) vs. Alabama in the semifinals of the SEC Tournament after netting a career-high seven 3-pointers on seven attempts
- The 7-of-7 performance set UK school records and SEC Tournament records for most 3-pointers made without a miss
- Tied his career high for blocked shots against the Tide in the semis with three rejections and now has a team-high 35 blocks this season
- His 87.5 field-goal percentage tied for the second-best mark in an SEC Tournament game in school history (minimum six attempts). The last Wildcat to do it was Alex Poythress, who was also 7 for 8 vs. Alabama on March 11, 2016
- Averaging 5.2 rebounds per game, fourth on the team
- Has pulled in six or more rebounds in 11 of the last 17 games and in 18 games overall this year
- Grabbed 10 rebounds and hit two key 3-pointers in the SEC-opening win over Georgia
- Born in Khartoum, Sudan
- Grabbed a team-high 13 rebounds and tied for the team high with three blocks vs. Utah Valley

Game-By-Game

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17		23	3-13	.231	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	6	7	13	13.0	3	3	0	3	1	7	7.0
VERMONT	11/12/17		20	1-2	.500	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	7.5	3	1	1	1	0	2	4.5
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17		18	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	0	2	2	5.7	3	0	1	1	1	3	4.0
ETSU	11/17/17		18	2-4	.500	1-2	.500	0-1	.000	1	3	4	5.3	1	1	0	1	0	5	4.3
TROY	11/20/17		27	3-5	.600	1-2	.500	5-6	.833	1	5	6	5.4	2	1	1	2	0	12	5.8
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17		19	3-4	.750	1-2	.500	2-5	.400	2	8	10	6.2	1	1	4	0	1	9	6.3
UIC	11/26/17		23	1-4	.250	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	1	3	4	5.9	3	2	0	2	1	3	5.9
HARVARD	12/2/17		22	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	2	2	5.4	1	0	1	2	3	5	5.8
vs Monmouth	12/9/17		23	3-5	.600	1-3	.333	1-3	.333	1	3	4	5.2	3	0	0	3	1	8	6.0
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17		21	3-5	.600	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	3	6	9	5.6	3	0	2	0	1	7	6.1
vs UCLA	12/23/17		26	6-10	.600	3-4	.750	1-2	.500	6	0	6	5.6	3	0	1	1	2	16	7.0
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17		23	1-2	.500	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	2	5	7	5.8	2	1	2	2	0	3	6.7
GEORGIA	12/31/17		34	2-9	.222	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	3	7	10	6.1	4	0	3	1	1	6	6.6
at LSU	01/03/18		22	1-3	.333	1-3	.333	1-2	.500	1	3	4	5.9	3	1	0	0	3	4	6.4
at #22/23 Tennessee	01/06/18		19	4-5	.800	3-4	.750	0-1	.000	0	1	1	5.6	5	1	1	0	1	11	6.7
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	01/09/18		32	1-5	.200	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0	3	3	5.4	4	0	3	0	1	3	6.5
at Vanderbilt	01/13/18		29	3-8	.375	0-4	.000	1-4	.250	2	7	9	5.6	2	1	1	2	1	7	6.5
at South Carolina	01/16/18		15	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	1	5	6	5.7	5	0	1	1	0	3	6.3
FLORIDA	01/20/18		19	4-6	.667	1-3	.333	1-1	1.000	1	6	7	5.7	3	0	2	0	0	10	6.5
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/23/18		19	3-6	.500	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	3	3	6	5.8	4	0	0	0	0	7	6.6
at #7/7 West Virginia	01/27/18		28	1-7	.143	0-4	.000	4-4	1.000	5	4	9	5.9	3	3	0	3	0	6	6.5
VANDERBILT	01/30/18	*	31	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	2	4	6	5.9	3	0	2	0	1	0	6.2
at Mizzou	02/03/18		18	3-8	.375	1-5	.200	1-2	.500	0	1	1	5.7	4	0	1	1	1	8	6.3
#15/14 TENNESSEE	02/06/18		19	1-1	1.000	1-1	1.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	5.5	4	0	2	1	0	4	6.2
at Texas A&M	02/10/18		18	1-5	.200	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	3	3	6	5.5	5	0	0	1	1	2	6.0
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18	*	30	4-8	.500	0-4	.000	0-1	.000	0	2	2	5.4	3	1	1	0	0	8	6.1
RV/RV ALABAMA	02/17/18	*	18	2-6	.333	1-4	.250	0-2	.000	1	6	7	5.4	4	0	4	1	1	5	6.1
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18	*	15	2-6	.333	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	2	0	2	5.3	3	1	0	2	1	5	6.0
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18	*	15	1-4	.250	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	3	2	5	5.3	2	0	2	1	0	3	5.9
OLE MISS	02/28/18	*	23	5-8	.625	2-4	.500	3-3	1.000	2	4	6	5.3	4	2	0	0	1	15	6.2
at RV/RV Florida	03/03/18	*	22	1-4	.250	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	1	3	4	5.3	0	0	2	0	0	3	6.1
vs Georgia	03/09/18		27	2-4	.500	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	2	4	6	5.3	4	1	1	0	0	6	6.1
vs Alabama	03/10/18		25	7-8	.875	7-7	1.000	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	5.2	2	0	1	3	1	23	6.6
vs #13/12 Tennessee	03/11/18		28	4-6	.667	2-4	.500	2-2	1.000	3	3	6	5.2	5	0	0	2	3	12	6.8
Totals		7	769	81-180	.450	39-98	.398	30-50	.600	58	120	178	5.2	104	21	40	37	28	231	6.8

Superlatives

Season Stats	
10+ points	7
20+ points	1
3+ blocks	4
3+ steals	3
10+ rebounds	3
Double-doubles	-
Dunks	7

Career Stats	
10+ points	14
20+ points	2
3+ blocks	7
3+ steals	4
10+ rebounds	5
Double-doubles	1
Dunks	12

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2016-17	38-23	676-17.8	60-148	.405	20-63	.317	34-55	.618	61-123-184-4.8	91-2	26	29	34	11	174	4.6
2017-18	34-7	769-22.6	81-180	.450	39-98	.398	30-50	.600	58-120-178-5.2	104-4	21	40	37	28	231	6.8
TOTAL	**72-30**	**1445-20.1**	**141-328**	**.430**	**59-161**	**.366**	**64-105**	**.610**	**119-243-362-5.0**	**195-6**	**47**	**69**	**71**	**39**	**405**	**5.6**

UK NCAA TOURNAMENT RECORDS

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

KENTUCKY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

1942	**New Orleans**	Illinois (RS)	46-44	W
		Dartmouth (RF)	28-47	L
1945	**New York**	Ohio State (RS)	37-45	L
		Tufts (Cons.)	66-56	W
1948	**New York**	Columbia (RS)	76-53	W
		Holy Cross (RF)	60-52	W
		Baylor (NF)	58-42	W
1949	**New York**	Villanova (RS)	85-72	W
		Illinois (RF)	76-47	W
	Seattle	Oklahoma State (NF)	46-36	W
1951	**Raleigh**	Louisville (1st)	79-68	W
	New York	St. John's (RS)	59-43	W
		Illinois (RF)	76-74	W
	Minneapolis	Kansas State (NF)	68-58	W
1952	**Raleigh**	Penn State (RS)	82-54	W
		St. John's (RF)	57-64	L
1955	**Evanston**	Marquette (RS)	71-79	L
		Penn State (Cons.)	84-59	W
1956	**Iowa City**	Wayne State (RS)	84-64	W
		Iowa (RF)	77-89	L
1957	**Lexington**	Pittsburgh (RS)	98-92	W
		Michigan State (RF)	68-80	L
1958	**Lexington**	Miami, Ohio (RS)	94-70	W
		Notre Dame (RF)	89-56	W
	Louisville	Tempe (NS)	61-60	W
		Seattle (NF)	84-72	W
1959	**Evanston**	Louisville (RS)	61-76	L
		Marquette (Cons.)	98-69	W
1961	**Louisville**	Morehead State (RS)	71-64	W
		Ohio State (RF)	74-87	L
1962	**Iowa City**	Butler (RS)	81-60	W
		Ohio State (RF)	64-74	L
1964	**Minneapolis**	Ohio (RS)	69-85	L
		Loyola, Chi. (Cons.)	91-100	L
1966	**Iowa City**	Dayton (RS)	86-79	W
		Michigan (RF)	84-77	W
	College Park	Duke (NS)	83-79	W
		UTEP (NF)	65-72	L
1968	**Lexington**	Marquette (RS)	107-89	W
		Ohio State (RF)	81-82	L
1969	**Madison**	Marquette (RS)	74-81	L
		Miami, Ohio (Cons.)	72-71	W
1970	**Columbus**	Notre Dame (RS)	109-99	W
		Jacksonville (RF)	100-106	L
1971	**Athens**	Western Kentucky (RS)	83-107	L
		Marquette (Cons.)	74-91	L
1972	**Dayton**	Marquette (RS)	85-69	W
		Florida State (RF)	54-73	L
1973	**Nashville**	Austin Peay (RS) [OT]	106-100	W
		Indiana (RF)	65-72	L
1975	**Tuscaloosa**	Marquette (1st)	76-54	W
	Dayton	Central Michigan (RS)	90-73	W
		Indiana (RF)	92-90	W
	San Diego	Syracuse (NS)	95-79	W
		UCLA (NF)	85-92	L
1977	**Philadelphia**	Princeton (1st)	72-58	W
	College Park	VMI (RS)	93-78	W
		North Carolina (RF)	72-79	L
1978	**Knoxville**	Florida State (1st)	85-76	W
	Dayton	Miami, Ohio (RS)	91-69	W
		Michigan State (RF)	52-49	W
	St. Louis	Arkansas (NS)	64-59	W
		Duke (NF)	94-88	W
1980[1]	**Bowling Green**	Florida State[8] (2nd)	97-78	W
	Lexington	Duke[4] (RS)	54-55	L
1981[2]	**Tuscaloosa**	UAB[7] (2nd)	62-69	L
1982[6]	**Nashville**	Middle Tennessee[11] (1st)	44-50	L
1983[3]	**Tampa**	Ohio[11] (2nd)	57-40	W
	Knoxville	Indiana[2] (RS)	64-59	W
		Louisville[1] (RF) [OT]	68-80	L
1984[1]	**Birmingham**	BYU[8] (2nd)	93-68	W
	Lexington	Louisville[5] (RS)	72-67	W
		Illinois[2] (RF)	54-51	W
	Seattle	Georgetown[1] (NS)	40-53	L
1985[12]	**Salt Lake City**	Washington[5] (1st)	66-58	W
		UNLV[4] (2nd)	64-61	W
	Denver	St. John's[1] (RS)	70-86	L
1986[1]	**Charlotte**	Davidson[16] (1st)	75-55	W
		Western Ky.[8] (2nd)	71-64	W
	Atlanta	Alabama[5] (RS)	68-63	W
		LSU[11] (RF)	57-59	L
1987[8]	**Atlanta**	Ohio State[9] (1st)	77-91	L
***1988**[2]	**Cincinnati**	Southern[15] (1st)	99-84	W
		Maryland[7] (2nd)	90-81	W
	Birmingham	Villanova[6] (RS)	74-80	L
1992[2]	**Worcester**	Old Dominion[15] (1st)	88-69	W
		Iowa State[10] (2nd)	106-98	W
	Philadelphia	Massachusetts[3] (RS)	87-77	W
		Duke[1] (RF) [OT]	103-104	L
1993[1]	**Nashville**	Rider[16] (1st)	96-52	W
		Utah[8] (2nd)	83-62	W
	Charlotte	Wake Forest[5] (RS)	103-69	W
		Florida State[3] (RF)	106-81	W
	New Orleans	Michigan[1] (NS) [OT]	78-81	L
1994[3]	**St. Petersburg**	Tennessee State[14] (1st)	83-70	W
		Marquette[6] (2nd)	63-75	L
1995[1]	**Memphis**	Mt. St. Mary's[16] (1st)	113-67	W
		Tulane[9] (2nd)	82-60	W
	Birmingham	Arizona State[5] (RS)	97-73	W
		North Carolina[2] (RF)	61-74	L
1996[1]	**Dallas**	San Jose State[16] (1st)	110-72	W
		Virginia Tech[9] (2nd)	84-60	W
	Minneapolis	Utah[4] (RS)	101-70	W
		Wake Forest[2] (RF)	83-63	W
	E. Rutherford	Massachusetts[1] (NS)	81-74	W
		Syracuse[4] (NF)	76-67	W

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

KENTUCKY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

1997[1]	**Salt Lake City**	Montana[16] (1st)	92-54	W
		Iowa[8] (2nd)	75-69	W
	San Jose	St. Joseph's[4] (RS)	83-68	W
		Utah[2] (RF)	72-59	W
	Indianapolis	Minnesota[1] (NS)	78-69	W
		Arizona[4] (NF) [OT]	79-84	L
1998[2]	**Atlanta**	S.C. State[15] (1st)	82-67	W
		Saint Louis[10] (2nd)	88-61	W
	St. Petersburg	UCLA[6] (RS)	94-68	W
		Duke[1] (RF)	86-84	W
	San Antonio	Stanford[3] (NS) [OT]	86-85	W
		Utah[3] (NF)	78-69	W
1999[3]	**New Orleans**	New Mexico State[14] (1st)	82-60	W
		Kansas[6] (2nd) [OT]	92-88	W
	St. Louis	Miami, Ohio[10] (RS)	58-43	W
		Michigan State[1] (RF)	66-73	L
2000[5]	**Cleveland**	St. Bonaventure[12] (1st) [2OT]	85-80	W
		Syracuse[4]	50-52	L
2001[2]	**Long Island**	Holy Cross[15] (1st)	72-68	W
		Iowa[7] (2nd)	92-79	W
	Philadelphia	Southern Cal[6] (RS)	76-80	L
2002[4]	**St. Louis**	Valparaiso[13] (1st)	83-68	W
		Tulsa[12] (2nd)	87-82	W
	Syracuse	Maryland[1] (RS)	68-78	L
2003[1]	**Nashville**	IUPUI[16] (1st)	95-64	W
		Utah[9] (2nd)	74-54	W
	Minneapolis	Wisconsin[5] (RS)	63-57	W
		Marquette[3] (RF)	69-83	L
2004[1]	**Columbus**	Florida A&M[16] (1st)	96-76	W
		UAB[9] (2nd)	75-76	L
2005[2]	**Indianapolis**	Eastern Kentucky[15] (1st)	72-64	W
		Cincinnati[7] (2nd)	69-60	W
	Austin	Utah[6] (RS)	62-52	W
		Michigan State[5] (RF) [2ot]	88-94	L
2006[8]	**Philadelphia**	UAB[9] (1st)	69-64	W
		UConn[1] (2nd)	83-87	L
2007[8]	**Chicago**	Villanova[9] (1st)	67-58	W
		Kansas[1] (2nd)	76-88	L
2008[11]	**Anaheim**	Marquette[6] (1st)	66-74	L
2010[1]	**New Orleans**	East Tennessee St.[16] (1st)	100-71	W
		Wake Forest[9] (2nd)	90-60	W
	SYRACUSE	CORNELL[12] (RS)	62-45	W
		West Virginia [2] (RF)	66-73	L
2011[4]	**Tampa**	Princeton [13] (2nd)	59-57	W
		Wake Forest[5] (3rd)	71-63	W
	Newark	Ohio State[1] (RS)	62-60	W
		North Carolina[2] (RF)	76-69	W
	Houston	Connecticut [3] (NS)	56-55	L
2012[1]	**Louisville**	Western Kentucky[16] (2nd)	81-66	W
		Iowa State[9] (3rd)	87-71	W
	Atlanta	Indiana[4] (RS)	102-90	W
		Baylor [3] (RF)	82-70	W
	New Orleans	Louisville [4] (NS)	69-61	W
		Kansas [2] (NF)	67-59	W
2014[8]	**St. Louis**	Kansas State [9] (2nd)	56-49	W
		Wichita State [1] (3rd)	78-76	W
	Indianapolis	Louisville [4] (RS)	74-69	W
		Michigan [2] (RF)	75-72	W
	Dallas	Wisconsin [2] (NS)	74-73	W
		UConn [7] (NF)	60-54	L
2015[1]	**Louisville**	Hampton [16] (2nd)	79-56	W
		Cincinnati [8] (3rd)	64-51	W
	Cleveland	West Virginia [5] (RS)	78-39	W
		Notre Dame [3] (RF)	68-66	W
	Indianapolis	Wisconsin [1] (NS)	71-64	L
2016[4]	**Des Moines**	Stony Brook [13] (1st)	85-57	W
		Indiana [5] (2nd)	73-67	L
2017[2]	**Indianapolis**	N. Kentucky [15] (1st)	79-70	W
		Wichita State [10] (2nd)	65-62	W
	Memphis	UCLA [3] (RS)	86-75	W
		North Carolina [1] (RF)	75-73	L
2018[5]	**Boise**	Davidson [12] (1st)		

**1988 NCAA Tournament games were vacated by NCAA*

What's what?

UK Seed	Site	Opp. Seed	Round		
1998[2]	Atlanta	S.C. State[15]	(1st)	82-67	W

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

KENTUCKY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

UK VS. THE 2018 NCAA TOURNAMENT FIELD

Opponent	*UK in Series:*	*NCAA Tournament*	*Last Meeting*
EAST REGION			
Villanova	6-0	2-0	3-16-2007 (UK 67, Nova 58)
LIU-Brooklyn	3-1	0-0	11-23-2012 (UK 104, LIU 75)
Radford	1-0	0-0	11-23-2011 (UK 88, RU 40)
Virginia Tech	4-1	1-0	12-16-2017 (UK 93, VT 86)
Alabama	112-37	1-0	3-10-2018 (UK 86, UA 63)
West Virginia	16-5	2-1	1-27-2015 (UK 83, WVU 76)
Murray State	0-0	0-0	Never met
Wichita State	3-0	3-0	3-19-2017 (UK 65, WSU 62)
Marshall	12-0	0-0	12-22-2012 (UK 82, MU 54)
Florida	100-40	0-0	3-3-2018 (UF 80, UK 67)
St. Bonaventure	1-0	1-0	3-16-2000 (UK 85, SBU 80[2OT])
UCLA	9-6	3-1	3-24-2017 (UK 86, UCLA 75)
Texas Tech	4-0	0-0	12-17-1994 (UK 83, TT 68)
Stephen F. Austin	1-0	0-0	11-11-2016 (UK 87, SFA 64)
Arkansas	31-11	1-0	2-20-2018 (UK 87, Ark 72)
Butler	4-0	1-0	11-27-1982 (UK 90, Butler 53)
Purdue	6-2	0-0	12-3-1997 (UK 89, Purdue 75)
CS Fullerton	0-0	0-0	Never met
MIDWEST REGION			
Kansas	22-9	2-1	11-14-2017 (KU 65, UK 61)
Penn	5-0	0-0	1-3-2011 (UK 86, PU 62)
Seton Hall	1-1	0-0	11-26-1988 (UK 63, SH 60)
NC State	3-1	0-0	2-2-1986 (NC 54, UK 51)
Clemson	12-4	0-0	11-29-1997 (UK 76, CU 61)
New Mexico State	1-0	1-0	3-12-1999 (UK 82, NMSU 60)
Auburn	92-19	0-0	2-14-2018 (AU 76, UK 66)
Charleston	2-0	0-0	11-28-2006 (UK 77, CC 61)
TCU	2-0	0-0	1-20-1996 (UK 124, TCU 80)
Arizona State	5-0	1-0	11-28-2016 (UK 115, ASU 69)
Syracuse	8-3	2-1	3-18-2000 (SU 52, UK 50)
Michigan State	13-11	1-3	11-15-2016 (UK 69, MSU 48)
Bucknell	0-0	0-0	Never met
Rhode Island	1-0	0-0	3-20-1946 (UK 46, URI 45)
Oklahoma	3-0	0-0	11-22-2010 (UK 76, OU 64)
Duke	12-9	3-2	11-17-2015 (UK 74, Duke 63)
Iona	6-0	0-0	12-23-2005 (UK 73, Iona 67)
SOUTH REGION			
Virginia	6-3	0-0	11-26-2002 (UK 61, UVA 75)
UMBC	0-0	0-0	Never met
Creighton	8-4	0-0	3-13-2009 (UK 65, Creighton 63)
Kansas State	9-0	2-0	3-21-2014 (UK 56, KSU 49)
Davidson	1-0	1-0	3-14-1986 (UK 75, DU 55)
Arizona	2-3	0-1	11-26-1999 (UK 51, Zona 63)
Buffalo	1-0	0-0	11-16-2014 (UK 71, BU 52)
Miami (Fla.)	3-1	0-0	12-6-2008 (UK 67, Miami 73)
Loyloa	4-3	0-1	3-14-1964 (LUC 100, UK 91)
Tennessee	154-71	0-0	3-11-2018 (UK 77, UT 72)
Wright State	4-0	0-0	11-20-2015 (UK 78, WSU 62)
Nevada	0-0	0-0	Never met
Texas	2-0	0-0	12-5-2014 (UK 63, UT 51)
Cincinnati	28-10	2-0	3-21-2015 (UK 64, UC 51)
Georgia State	2-0	0-0	12-6-2005 (UK 73, GSU 46)
WEST REGION			
Xavier	37-2	0-0	11-30-1968 (UK 115, XU 77)
North Carolina Central	0-0	0-0	Never met
Texas Southern	1-0	0-0	11-24-2007 (UK 83, TSU 35)
Missouri	11-1	0-0	2-24-2018 (UK 87, MIZZ 66)
Florida State	6-2	3-1	3-27-1993 (UK 106, FSU 81)
Ohio State	11-9	1-5	12-19-2015 (OSU 74, UK 67)
South Dakota State	1-0	0-0	11-13-2005 (UK 71, SDSU 54)
Gonzaga	1-0	0-0	11-27-2002 (UK 80, Zaga 72)
UNC Greensboro	0-0	0-0	Never met
Houston	3-1	0-0	12-18-2007 (HU 83, UK 69)
San Diego State	0-0	0-0	Never met
Michigan	5-2	2-1	3-30-2014 (UK 75, UM 72)
Montana	1-0	1-0	3-13-1997 (UK 81, MU 69)
Texas A&M	9-4	0-0	2-10-2018 (TAMU 85, UK 74)
Providence	3-0	0-0	11-30-2014 (UK 58, Prov 38)
North Carolina	15-27	1-3	3-26-2017 (UNC 75, UK 73)
Lipscomb	2-0	0-0	12-15-2012 (UK 88, LU 50)

UK SEEDING HISTORY IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

UK NCAA TOURNAMENT SEED GRID

UK	Opponent Seed																
Seed	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**Total**
1(12)	2-3	4-2	3-1	5-2	6-0	—	—	6-0	5-1	—	0-1	1-0	—	—	—	10-0	42-10
2(7)	1-2	—	4-0	—	0-2	3-2	4-1	—	—	3-0	—	—	—	—	7-0	—	22-7
3(3)	0-2	1-0	—	—	—	1-1	—	—	—	1-0	1-0	—	—	2-0	—	—	6-3
4(3)	1-1	1-0	0-1	—	1-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	3-0	—	—	—	7-2
5(1)	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	—	—	—	—	1-1
6(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
7(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-0
8(4)	1-2	2-0	—	1-0	—	—	0-1	—	3-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7-4
9(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-0
10(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-0
11(1)	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
12(1)	0-1	—	—	1-0	1-0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2-1
Total	**5-11**	**8-2**	**7-2**	**7-3**	**8-3**	**4-4**	**4-2**	**6-0**	**8-2**	**4-0**	**1-2**	**3-0**	**3-0**	**2-0**	**7-0**	**10-0**	

*The NCAA began seeding at the 1979 NCAA Tournament

March Madness Numbers

As of March 11, the nation's winningest team, Kentucky, holds many distinctions in NCAA Tournament play, including:

Appearances

1.	**KENTUCKY**	**57**
2.	North Carolina	49
3.	UCLA	47
	Kansas	47
5.	Louisville	42

Tournament Games

1.	**KENTUCKY**	**174**
2.	North Carolina	168
3.	Kansas	148
4.	Duke	144
5.	UCLA	140

Tournament Wins

1.	**KENTUCKY**	**124**
2.	North Carolina	123
3.	Duke	108
4.	Kansas	103
5.	UCLA	101

NCAA Championships

1.	UCLA	11
2.	**KENTUCKY**	**8**
3.	North Carolina	6
4.	Duke	5
	Indiana	5

NCAA Final Fours

1.	North Carolina	20
2.	**KENTUCKY**	**17**
	UCLA	17
4.	Duke	16
5.	Kansas	14

NCAA Final Four Wins

1.	UCLA	25
2.	**KENTUCKY**	**20**
3.	North Carolina	18
4.	Duke	17
5.	Kansas	12
	Indiana	12

UK NCAA TEAM SINGLE-GAME RECORDS

Most Points
113, Mount Saint Mary's (1995, 1st Round)
110, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
109, Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
106, Florida State (1993, Elite 8)
106, Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
106, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16) [OT]
by Opponent
107 by Western Kentucky (1971, Sweet 16)
106 by Jacksonville (1970, Elite 8)
104 by Duke (1992, Elite 8) [OT]

Fewest Points
28, Dartmouth (1942 (Elite 8)
37, Ohio State (1945, Sweet 16)
40, Georgetown (1984, Final Four)
44, Middle Tennessee (1982, 1st Round)
by Opponent
36, Oklahoma State (1949, Championship)
39, West Virginia (2015, Sweet 16)
40, Miami, Ohio (1999, Sweet 16)
42, Baylor (1948, Championship)

Field Goals
50, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
43, Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
43, Marquette (1968, Sweet 16)
43, Marquette (1959, Reg. Cons.)
42, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
by Opponent
46 by Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
42 by Western Kentucky (1971, Sweet 16)

Field Goals Attempted
99, Miami, Ohio (1958, Sweet 16)
97, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
89, Jacksonville (1970, Elite 8)
86, UCLA (1975, Championship)
84, Loyola (1964, Reg. Cons.)
by Opponent
99 by Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
87 by Michigan State (1957, Elite 8)
85 by Michigan (1966, Elite 8)

Highest Field-Goal Percentage
.667, Southern (1988, 1st Round) [38-of-57]
.621, Miami, Ohio (1978, Sweet 16) [41-of-66]
.619, Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [39-of-63]
.615, Utah (2005, Sweet 16) [24-of-39]
.615, IUPUI (2003, 1st Round) [40-of-65]
by Opponent
.660 by Ohio State (1987, 1st Round) [33-of-50]
.654 by Duke (1992, Elite 8) [34-of-52]
.605 by North Carolina (1977, Elite 8) [23-of-38]

Lowest Field-Goal Percentage
.245, Georgetown (1984, Final Four) [13-of-53]
.280, North Carolina (1995, Elite 8) [21-of-75]
.302, Temple (1958, Final Four) [19-of-63]
.311, UAB (2006, 1st Round) [19-of-61]
.316, Marquette (1994, 2nd Round) [24-of-76]
by Opponent
.241 by West Virginia (2015, Sweet 16) [13-of54]
.263 by Stony Brook (2016, First Round) [20-76]
.282 by Notre Dame (1958, Elite 8) [22-of-78]
.288 by Hampton (2015, 2nd Round) [17of-59]

3-Point Field Goals
16, Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16)
15, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
13, Iowa (2001, 2nd Round)
13, Mount Saint Mary's (1995, 1st Round)
12, North Carolina (2011, Elite 8)
12, Syracuse (1996, Championship)
by Opponent
13 by Arizona State (1995, Sweet 16)
12 by Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)

3-Point Field Goals Attempted
38, Marquette (1994, 2nd Round)
36, North Carolina (1995, Elite 8)
33, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
32, West Virginia (2010, Regional Final)
30, Arizona (1997, Championship)
by Opponent
32 by Northern Kentucky (2017, 1st Round)
32 by St. Bonaventure (2000, 1st Round)
31 by Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)

3-Point Field-Goal Percentage (min. 10 attempts)
.667, Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [16-of-24]
.636, Wake Forest (1996, Elite 8) [7-of-11]
.583, Cincinnati (2005, 2nd Round) [7-of-12]
.571, New Mexico State (1999, 1st Round) [8-of-14]
.545, North Carolina (2011, Elite 8) [12-of-22]
.545, Duke (1992, Elite 8) [12-of-22]
by Opponent
.625 by Kansas (2007, 2nd Round) [10-of-16]
.571 by USC (2001, Sweet 16) [8-of-14]
.556 by Holy Cross (2001, Sweet 16) [10-of-18]

Free Throws
35, Indiana (2012, Sweet 16)
33, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
30, Washington (1985, 1st Round)
30, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
30, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
38 by Loyola (1964, Reg. Cons.)
34 by Arizona (1997, Championship)
34 by Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)

Free Throws Attempted
48, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
41, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
40, Washington (1985, 1st Round)
39, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
38, Syracuse (1975, Final Four)
by Opponent
44 by Loyola (1964, Reg. Cons.)
41 by Arizona (1997, Championship)
40 by UAB (1981, 2nd Round)

Free-Throw Percentage (min. 10 attempts)
1.000, Utah (2003, Sweet 16) [18-of-18]
.946, Indiana (2012, Sweet 16) [35-of-37]
.944, Connecticut (2006, 2nd Round) [17-of-18]
.900, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16) [18-of-20]
.900, Wisconsin (2015, Final Four) [9-of-10]
by Opponent
1.000 by Villanova (1988, Sweet 16) [17-of-17]
.950 by Wisconsin (2014, Final Four) [19-of-20]
.917 by Utah (1997, Elite 8) [11-of-12]
.917 by North Carolina (1977, Elite 8) [33-of-36]

Rebound Margin
+26, Florida State (1993, Sweet 16)
+23, Florida State (1980, 2nd Round)
+20, Hampton (2105, 2nd Round)
+20, Davidson (1986, 1st Round)
+19, Miami, Ohio (1999, Sweet 16)
+19, Notre Dame (1958, Elite 8)
by Opponent
+25 by Marquette (1971, Reg. Cons.)
+24 by Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
+15 by Utah (1998, Championship)

Assists
35, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
33, Mount St. Mary's (1995, 1st Round)
27, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
27, Arizona State (1995, Sweet 16)
26, Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
by Opponent
23 by Duke (1992, Elite 8)
23 by UCLA (1975, Championship)
21 by Marquette (2003, Elite 8)

Most Turnovers
25, Southern (1988, 1st Round)
23, Florida State (1978, 1st Round)
21, Syracuse (2000, 2nd Round)
20, Florida State (1993, Elite 8)
20, Louisville (1984, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
30 by Old Dominion (1992, 1st Round)
28 by Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
26 by Minnesota (1997, Final Four)
26 by San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)

Fewest Turnovers
4, Wisconsin (2014, Final Four)
6, UCLA (2017, Sweet 16)
6, Wisconsin (2015, Final Four)
6, Indiana (2012, Sweet 16)
6, Stanford (1998, Final Four)
6, Utah (1996, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
4 by Florida State (1978, 1st Round)
5 by St. John's (1995, Sweet 16)
6 by Duke (1998, Elite 8)

Blocks
15, Stony Brook (2016, First Round)
14, UCLA (1998, Sweet 16)
11, Kansas (2012, National Championship)
11, Ohio State (2011, Sweet 16)
11, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
11, South Carolina State (1998, 1st Round)
11, Montana (1997, 1st Round)
by Opponent
9 by North Carolina (2017, Elite Eight)
9 by Florida State (1978, 1st Round)
8 by Massachusetts (1996, Final Four)
8 by Middle Tennessee (1982, 1st Round)

Steals
17, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
17, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
16, Marquette (1994, 2nd Round)
16, Old Dominion (1992, 1st Round)
14, Minnesota (1997, Final Four)
14, Montana (1997, 1st Round)
by Opponent
13 by Florida A&M (2004, 1st Round)
11 by East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
11 by USC (2001, Sweet 16)
11 by Louisville (1983, Elite 8)

Winning Margin
+46, Mount St. Mary's, 1995 (1st Round) [113-67]
+44, Rider, 1993 (1st Round) [96-52]
+39, West Virginia, 2015 (Sweet 16) [78-39]
+38, Montana, 1997 (1st Round) [92-54]
+38, San Jose State, 1996 (1st Round) [110-72]

UK NCAA INDIVIDUAL SINGLE-GAME RECORDS

Points
44, Dan Issel vs. Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
41, Tayshaun Prince vs. Tulsa (2002, 2nd Round)
41, Jack Givens vs. Duke (1978, Finals)
39, De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA (2017, Sweet 16)
36, Dan Issel vs. Miami, Ohio (1969, Reg. Cons.)
36, Dan Issel vs. Marquette (1968, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
52 by Austin Carr, Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
36 by Henry Finkel, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16)
35 by Jim McDaniels, Western Kentucky (1971, Sweet 16)
34 by Carl Cain, Iowa (1956, Elite 8)
33 by Kent Benson, Indiana (1975, Elite 8)
33 by Jerry Lucas, Ohio State (1962, Elite 8)
33 by Jerry Lucas, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)

Field Goals
18, Jack Givens vs. Duke (1978 Championship) [27 att.]
17, Dan Issel vs. Notre Dame (1970 Sweet 16) [28 att.]
15, Jim Andrews vs. Austin Peay (1973 Sweet 16) [19 att.]
14, Tayshaun Prince vs. Tulsa (2002 2nd Round) [21 att.]
14, Dan Issel vs. Marquette (1968 Sweet 16) [18 att.]
14, Louie Dampier vs. Dayton (1966 Sweet 16) [23 att.]
14, Bob Burrow vs. Wayne State (1956 Sweet 16)
by Opponent
22 by Austin Carr, Notre Dame (1970, 1st Round) [35 att.]
15 by Henry Finkel, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16) [26 att.]

Field Goals Attempted
30, Kevin Grevey vs. UCLA (1975 Championship)
29, Bill Spivey vs. Kansas State (1951 Championship)
28, Dan Issel vs. Notre Dame (1970 Sweet 16)
27, Jack Givens vs. Duke (1978 Championship)
27, Pat Riley vs. Michigan (1966 Elite 8)
27, Cotton Nash vs. Loyola (1964 Reg. Cons.)
by Opponent
35 by Austin Carr, Notre Dame (1970, 1st Round)
32 by Elgin Baylor, Seattle (1958, National Championship)
31 by James Williams, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
29 by Don Hennon, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
26 by Ron Carter, VMI (1977, Sweet 16)
26 by Henry Finkel, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16)
26 by Bob Brown, Louisville (1951, 1st Round)

Field-Goal Percentage (min. 8 attempts)
1.000, Kenny Walker vs. Western Kentucky (1986, 2nd Round) [11-for-11]
.909, Travis Ford vs. Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [10-of-11]
.900, DeMarcus Cousins vs. Wake Forest (2010, 2nd Round) [9-10]
.900, Patrick Patterson vs. East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round) [9-10]
.875, Anthony Davis vs. Louisville (2012, Final Four) [7-8]
.875, Josh Harrellson vs. Princeton (2011, 2nd Rd) [7-8]
by Opponent
1.000 by Christian Laettner, Duke (1992, Elite 8) [10-of-10]
.900 by Ben Caton, Utah (1996, Sweet 16) [9-of-10]
.875 by Ric Cobb, Marqutte (1969, Sweet 16) [7-of-8]
.818 by Randy Ayers, Miami, Ohio (1978, Sweet 16) [9-of-11]
.800 by Rayshard Allen, Tulane (1995, 2nd Round) [12-of-15]
.800 by Mickey Dillard, Florida State (1978, 1st Round) [8-of-10]

3-Point Field Goals
8, Eric Bledsoe vs. East Tennessee St. (2010, 1st Round)
7, Tony Delk vs. Syracuse (1996 Championship)
6, Tayshaun Prince vs. Tulsa (2002 2nd Round)
6, Tayshaun Prince vs. Iowa (2001 2nd Round)
5, 12 players
by Opponent
6 by David Bluthenthal, USC (2001, Sweet 16)
6 by Dean Oliver, Iowa (2001, 2nd Round)
6 by Jeff Boschee, Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)
6 by Tyler Brown, South Carolina State (1998, 1st Round)

3-Point Field Goals Attempted
14, Tony Delk vs. North Carolina (1995 Elite 8)
12, Scott Padgett vs. Arizona (1997 Championship)
12, Tony Delk vs. Syracuse (1996 Championship)
12, Tony Delk vs. Marquette (1994 2nd Round)
11, Brandon Knight vs. UConn (2011, Final Four)
11, Brandon Knight vs. North Carolina (2011, Elite 8)
by Opponent
18 by Jeff Boschee, Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)
5 players with 9

3-Point Field-Goal Percentage (min. 5 attempts)
1.000, Jamal Mashburn vs. Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [5-of-5]
.889, Eric Bledsoe vs. East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round) [8-of-9]
.833, Cameron Mills vs. St. Joseph's (1997, Sweet 16)
[5-of-6]
.833, Travis Ford vs. Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [5-of-6]
.800, John Pelphrey vs. Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
[4-of-5]
by Opponent
.857 by Brandon Rush, Kansas (2007, 2nd Round) [6-of-7]
.800 by Isaac Hamilton, UCLA (2017, Sweet 16) [4-of-5]
.714 by Kirk Penney, Wisconsin (2003, Sweet 16) [5-of-7]
.667 by seven players

Free Throws
17, Roger Newman vs. Ohio State (1961 Elite 8)
14, Randolph Morris vs. Kansas (2007, 2nd Round)
13, De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA (2017, Sweet 16)
13, Scott Padgett vs. Kansas (1999 2nd Round)
13, Rodrick Rhodes vs. Tennessee St. (1994 1st Round)
13, Ed Davender vs. Maryland (1988 2nd Round)
13, Kenny Walker vs. Washington (1985 1st Round)
by Opponent
16 by John Riser, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
15 by Ron Bayless, Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
14 by Miles Simon, Arizona (1997 Championship)
14 by Dean Meminger, Marquette (1971, Regional Cons.)
14 by Jim Coleman, Loyola (1964, Elite 8)

Free Throws Attempted
22, Roger Newman vs. Ohio State (1961 Elite 8)
19, Rodrick Rhodes vs. Tennessee St. (1994 1st Round)
17, Scott Padgett vs. Kansas (1999 2nd Round)
16, Randolph Morris vs. Kansas (2007, 2nd Round)
15, four players
by Opponent
18 by Robert Kendrick, Wayne State (1956 Sweet 16)
17 by Miles Simon, Arizona (1997 Championship)
17 by Dean Meminger, Marquette (1971, Regional Consl.)
17 by Jim Coleman, Loyola (1964, Elite 8)
17 by John Riser, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)

Free-Throw Percentage (min. 10 attempts)
1.000, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Indiana (2012, Sweet 16) [10-of-10]
1.000, Dan Issel vs. Miami, Ohio (1969, Reg. Cons.) [12-of-12]
1.000, Bobby Perry vs. UAB (2006, 1st Round) [10-of-10]
1.000, Mike Casey vs. Marquette (1969, Sweet 16) [10-of-10]
by Opponent
1.000 by Jim McDaniels, Western Kentucky (1971 Sweet 16) [11-of-11]
1.000 by Christian Laettner, Duke (1992 Elite 8) [10-of-10]

Rebounds
24, Jerry Bird vs. Iowa (1956, Elite Eight)
21, Bill Spivey vs. Kansas State (1951, Finals)
18, Bam Adebayo vs. NKU (2017, 1st Round)
16, six times, last Anthony Davis vs. Kansas (2012, Championship)
by Opponent
30 by Jerry Lucas, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
23 by Kent Benson, Indiana (1975, Elite 8)
20 by Artis Gilmore, Jacksonville (1970, Elite 8)
19 by Elgin Baylor, Seattle (1958, National Championship)
18 by Five guys

Assists
14, Dicky Beal vs. BYU (1984, 2nd Round)
11, John Wall vs. E. Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
9, seven players
by Opponent
14 by Andre McCarter, UCLA (1975, National Championship)
12 by Edgar Padilla, Massachusetts (1996, Final Four)
11 by Dwayne Wade, Marquette (2003, Elite 8)
11 by Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State (1999, Elite 8)
11 by Bruce Douglass, Illinois (1984, Elite 8)

Blocks
7, Anthony Davis vs. WKU (2012, 2nd Round)
6, Skal Labissiere vs. Stony Brook (2016, 1st Round)
6, Anthony Davis vs. Kansas (2012, National Championship)
6, Anthony Davis vs. Baylor (2012, Elite 8)
6, Jamaal Magloire vs. UCLA (1998, Sweet 16)
6, Nazr Mohammed vs. UCLA (1998, Sweet 16)

Steals
6, Anthony Epps vs. San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
6, Antoine Walker vs. San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
6, Dicky Beal vs. Louisville (1984, Sweet 16)
5, eight tied

2017-18 BOX SCORES

BOX SCORES

GAME ONE
#5/4 KENTUCKY 73, UTAH VALLEY 63

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Utah Valley vs Kentucky
11/10/17 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Utah Valley 63 • 0-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Manyang, Akolda	c	3-4	0-0	0-3	3	4	7	3	6	1	2	5	0	23
02	Toolson, Jake	g	3-9	1-1	4-4	1	2	3	3	11	2	2	0	2	22
03	Randolph, Brandon	g	4-7	1-2	1-2	1	1	2	2	10	7	4	0	2	35
11	Toolson, Conner	g	3-11	2-9	2-2	0	2	2	4	10	1	2	0	1	34
25	Ogbe, Kenneth	g	4-10	1-4	3-5	2	5	7	2	12	0	3	1	0	35
01	Calvert, Cory		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
10	Nakwaasah, Ben		1-5	0-1	2-2	1	1	2	4	4	1	2	0	1	20
12	Tahvanainen, Joonas		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
22	Neilson, Isaac		5-10	0-1	0-0	3	5	8	2	10	0	1	2	2	25
	Team					5	3	8							
	Totals		23-56	5-18	12-18	16	23	39	20	63	12	20	8	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-30 40.0% 2nd half: 11-26 42.3% Game: 23-56 41.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-8 25.0% 2nd half: 3-10 30.0% Game: 5-18 27.8%
FT % 1st Half: 8-8 100.0 2nd half: 4-10 40.0% Game: 12-18 66.7%

Deadball Rebounds 2,2

Kentucky 73 • 1-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	4-7	0-0	2-3	2	1	3	3	10	0	2	3	1	24
05	Knox, Kevin	f	3-13	1-4	5-6	2	4	6	3	12	4	2	1	4	37
25	Washington, PJ	f	1-1	0-0	3-6	1	2	3	2	5	2	4	0	0	19
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	8-16	2-4	0-0	2	3	5	2	18	3	1	0	0	25
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	5-9	1-2	2-2	0	3	3	0	13	4	3	0	4	36
00	Green, Quade		0-4	0-1	4-4	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	21
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		2-3	0-0	2-2	0	2	2	4	6	0	1	0	1	15
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		3-13	1-4	0-0	6	7	13	3	7	3	0	3	1	23
	Team					3	0	3							
	Totals		26-66	5-15	16-23	18	20	38	18	73	17	14	8	11	200

FG % 1st Half: 7-34 20.6% 2nd half: 19-32 59.4% Game: 26-66 39.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-8 25.0% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 5-15 33.3%
FT % 1st Half: 9-11 81.8% 2nd half: 7-12 58.3% Game: 16-23 69.6%

Deadball Rebounds 4,1

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Todd Austin, Nate Green
Technical fouls: Utah Valley-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 19807

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Utah Valley	34	29	**63**
Kentucky	25	48	**73**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points UTVALLE	34	16	8	6	14
UK	34	23	10	20	15

Last FG - UTVALLEY 2nd-00:18, UK 2nd-01:24.
Largest lead - UTVALLEY by 12 2nd-19:26, UK by 14 2nd-06:25.
UTVALLEY led for 17:08. UK led for 20:04. Game was tied for 02:48.

Score tied - 5 times.
Lead changed - 4 times.

GAME TWO
#5/4 KENTUCKY 73, VERMONT 69

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Vermont vs Kentucky
11/12/17 3:30 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Vermont 69 • 0-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
03	Lamb, Anthony	f	5-9	2-4	3-4	2	5	7	4	15	0	1	0	0	28
35	Henson, Payton	f	3-9	2-6	1-2	1	5	6	2	9	2	2	0	0	35
02	Bell-Haynes, Trae	g	8-15	0-3	0-2	1	0	1	4	16	5	3	0	1	31
20	Duncan, Ernie	g	3-11	3-10	1-2	0	2	2	3	10	2	0	1	0	32
21	Duncan, Everett	g	1-3	1-3	0-0	0	4	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	24
00	Smith, Stef		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	9
01	Nash, Skyler		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	6
14	Ward, Cam		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	8
25	Urquhart, Drew		5-8	1-1	2-3	1	2	3	3	13	1	1	0	0	27
	Team					1	2	3							
	Totals		26-58	10-29	7-13	6	21	27	18	69	14	7	1	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-31 32.3% 2nd half: 16-27 59.3% Game: 26-58 44.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-13 23.1% 2nd half: 7-16 43.8% Game: 10-29 34.5%
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 6-11 54.5% Game: 7-13 53.8%

Deadball Rebounds 3,3

Kentucky 73 • 2-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	2	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	13
05	Knox, Kevin	f	3-10	1-4	4-4	0	8	8	2	11	1	2	0	0	35
25	Washington, PJ	f	7-14	0-0	3-7	2	8	10	2	17	2	2	1	0	35
00	Green, Quade	g	6-11	1-2	2-2	0	3	3	4	15	4	1	0	0	26
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	6-13	1-2	3-4	0	1	1	4	16	3	0	1	1	30
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		1-2	0-0	4-4	2	2	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	18
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		1-2	0-0	2-2	1	1	2	3	4	3	3	1	2	23
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		1-2	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	0	20
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		26-56	3-9	18-23	8	28	36	17	73	15	10	4	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-31 45.2% 2nd half: 12-25 48.0% Game: 26-56 46.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-5 20.0% 2nd half: 2-4 50.0% Game: 3-9 33.3%
FT % 1st Half: 7-9 77.8% 2nd half: 11-14 78.6% Game: 18-23 78.3%

Deadball Rebounds 3,1

Officials: Tony Henderson, Patrick Evans, Will Howard
Technical fouls: Vermont-None. Kentucky-Kentucky, PJ.
Attendance: 20174

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Vermont	24	45	**69**
Kentucky	36	37	**73**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points VERMON	26	7	4	2	16
UK	32	9	10	10	12

Last FG - VERMONT 2nd-01:42, UK 2nd-03:13.
Largest lead - VERMONT by 2 1st-19:13, UK by 14 2nd-19:51.
VERMONT led for 01:06. UK led for 37:03. Game was tied for 01:51.

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 5 times.

GAME THREE
#4/3 KANSAS 65, #7/4 KENTUCKY 61

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Kansas
11/14/17 8:30 pm at United Center Chicago, IL

Kentucky 61 • 2-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
25	Washington, PJ	f	0-3	0-0	2-2	0	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	0	24
4	Richards, Nick	f	1-4	0-0	0-0	2	7	9	3	2	0	3	1	0	13
5	Knox, Kevin	f	8-13	3-6	1-2	2	5	7	2	20	0	1	1	2	37
0	Green, Quade	g	2-7	0-2	2-2	0	1	1	1	6	2	0	0	0	21
3	Diallo, Hamidou	g	4-11	0-3	6-7	2	3	5	3	14	4	3	0	1	30
1	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		4-6	0-0	0-3	4	5	9	3	8	2	0	3	0	23
14	Wynyard, Tai		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		3-7	0-1	0-0	0	4	4	3	6	3	6	0	3	27
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		1-3	0-1	1-2	0	2	2	3	3	0	1	1	1	18
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		23-55	3-13	12-18	10	29	39	20	61	14	18	10	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-25 44.0% 2nd half: 12-30 40.0% Game: 23-55 41.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-7 14.3% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 3-13 23.1%
FT % 1st Half: 8-10 80.0% 2nd half: 4-8 50.0% Game: 12-18 66.7%

Deadball Rebounds 4,2

Kansas 65 • 2-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
35	Azubuike, Udoka	c	5-5	0-0	3-8	5	3	8	5	13	1	1	2	0	34
10	Mykhailiuk, Svi	g	7-18	3-10	0-1	1	5	6	2	17	3	1	1	1	32
14	Newman, Malik	g	4-14	2-6	2-2	1	8	9	3	12	2	1	0	3	33
2	Vick, Lagerald	g	4-13	1-4	0-0	4	2	6	2	9	5	1	0	3	37
4	Graham, Devonte'	g	3-14	1-6	4-5	2	1	3	2	11	5	5	0	2	39
0	Garrett, Marcus		1-3	1-2	0-0	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	0	2	19
44	Lightfoot, Mitch		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Team					4	3	7							
	Totals		24-68	8-28	9-16	18	21	39	15	65	17	11	2	12	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-38 34.2% 2nd half: 11-30 36.7% Game: 24-68 35.3%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-15 33.3% 2nd half: 3-13 23.1% Game: 8-28 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 4-7 57.1% 2nd half: 5-9 55.6% Game: 9-16 56.3%

Deadball Rebounds 2,3

Officials: Joe DeRosa, Roger Ayers, Ron Groover
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Kansas-None.
Attendance: 21684

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	33	28	**61**
Kansas	34	31	**65**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points UK	24	12	12	13	17
KU	30	17	20	9	3

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:08, KU 2nd-02:10.
Largest lead - UK by 2 2nd-17:52, KU by 11 1st-14:08.
UK led for 04:10. KU led for 31:00. Game was tied for 04:50.

Score tied - 10 times.
Lead changed - 12 times.

GAME FOUR
#7/4 KENTUCKY 78, ETSU 61

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
ETSU vs Kentucky
11/17/17 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

ETSU 61 • 1-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
02	Burrell, David	f	5-15	1-6	0-0	4	1	5	2	11	1	2	1	0	29
33	Armus, Mladen	f	1-2	0-0	2-4	7	2	9	2	4	1	1	1	1	23
01	Bradford, Desonta	g	2-11	0-4	2-2	2	2	4	1	6	6	5	0	2	38
11	Payne, Devontavius	g	2-12	2-9	0-0	1	0	1	3	6	1	3	0	0	20
12	McCloud, Jalan	g	1-6	1-4	1-2	1	1	2	2	4	2	2	0	1	18
00	Obi-Rapu, Kanayo		2-7	1-3	2-2	1	0	1	2	7	0	0	0	0	15
03	Hodges, Bo		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	5
04	Williams, Jason		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
05	Jurkin, Peter		7-8	1-1	2-2	0	7	7	4	17	0	0	0	0	25
20	Harrison, James		0-3	0-0	0-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
24	Long, Jermaine		2-4	2-4	0-0	0	3	3	2	6	3	1	0	3	20
	Team					3	1	4							
	Totals		22-68	8-31	9-14	19	18	37	19	61	14	16	2	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-32 37.5% 2nd half: 10-36 27.8% Game: 22-68 32.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-18 33.3% 2nd half: 2-13 15.4% Game: 8-31 25.8%
FT % 1st Half: 0-0 0.0% 2nd half: 9-14 64.3% Game: 9-14 64.3%

Deadball Rebounds 2,2

Kentucky 78 • 3-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	11
05	Knox, Kevin	f	6-13	4-7	1-4	0	10	10	3	17	2	6	1	0	34
25	Washington, PJ	f	6-8	0-0	0-5	5	3	8	5	12	4	6	1	2	29
00	Green, Quade	g	9-13	3-5	0-1	0	0	0	1	21	3	3	0	1	26
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	3-7	0-1	1-2	0	4	4	2	7	0	2	1	1	27
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		2-6	0-0	0-0	6	2	8	3	4	1	3	3	2	25
14	Wynyard, Tai		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		4-6	1-1	1-1	1	1	2	1	10	6	2	0	2	27
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		2-4	1-2	0-1	1	3	4	1	5	1	0	1	0	18
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		33-58	9-16	3-15	13	27	40	20	78	17	22	8	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-29 55.2% 2nd half: 17-29 58.6% Game: 33-58 56.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-9 44.4% 2nd half: 5-7 71.4% Game: 9-16 56.3%
FT % 1st Half: 0-3 0.0% 2nd half: 3-12 25.0% Game: 3-15 20.0%

Deadball Rebounds 4,3

Officials: Doug Shows, Don Daily, Gerald Williams
Technical fouls: ETSU-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 20168

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
ETSU	30	31	**61**
Kentucky	36	42	**78**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points ETSU	22	16	13	2	10
UK	38	21	15	14	19

Last FG - ETSU 2nd-00:32, UK 2nd-01:15.
Largest lead - ETSU by 10 1st-12:18, UK by 22 2nd-01:15.
ETSU led for 14:26. UK led for 25:10. Game was tied for 00:24.

Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 3 times.

GAME FIVE
#8/8 KENTUCKY 70, TROY 62

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Troy vs Kentucky
11/20/17 8:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Troy 62 • 2-3, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
23	Varnado, Jordon	f	7-15	0-4	1-2	1	5	6	3	15	2	0	1	1	32
24	Hopkins, Shawn	f	0-2	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	15
30	Hicks, Alex	g	2-7	0-2	1-1	0	2	2	4	5	1	1	3	0	27
00	Baker, Kevin	g	4-14	2-9	5-7	0	2	2	3	15	2	0	0	1	30
03	Person, Wesley	g	6-16	2-8	3-3	2	4	6	3	17	2	2	0	1	37
01	Johnson, Javan		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
02	Adams, Darian		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	15
04	Davis, Jr., Juan		0-2	0-2	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	16
05	Burnett, Malik		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
11	Miller, B.J.		4-5	0-0	2-2	0	2	2	2	10	1	2	1	1	23
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		23-64	4-27	12-16	6	24	30	20	62	9	6	5	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-31 29.0% 2nd half: 14-33 42.4% Game: 23-64 35.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-14 7.1% 2nd half: 3-13 23.1% Game: 4-27 14.8%
FT % 1st Half: 6-9 66.7% 2nd half: 6-7 85.7% Game: 12-16 75.0%

Deadball Rebounds 1

Kentucky 70 • 4-1, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	3-5	0-0	2-2	4	4	8	2	8	0	0	0	0	12
05	Knox, Kevin	f	7-12	1-3	2-5	1	4	5	2	17	1	2	0	1	35
25	Washington, PJ	f	2-4	0-0	0-0	3	5	8	3	4	4	4	0	0	22
00	Green, Quade	g	5-10	1-2	2-2	0	3	3	2	13	3	3	0	0	26
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	3-12	0-1	2-6	3	7	10	3	8	1	2	0	1	29
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		1-4	0-0	0-0	1	3	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	17
12	Calipari, Brad		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
14	Wynyard, Tai		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	3
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		2-5	0-1	2-2	0	5	5	1	6	2	3	0	1	27
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		3-5	1-2	5-6	1	5	6	2	12	1	1	2	0	27
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		26-59	3-9	15-23	15	38	53	16	70	13	16	2	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-37 43.2% 2nd half: 10-22 45.5% Game: 26-59 44.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-4 25.0% 2nd half: 2-5 40.0% Game: 3-9 33.3%
FT % 1st Half: 8-13 61.5% 2nd half: 7-10 70.0% Game: 15-23 65.2%

Deadball Rebounds 2

Officials: Terry Oglesby, Garrick Shannon, Nate Green
Technical fouls: Troy-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 19548

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Troy	25	37	**62**
Kentucky	41	29	**70**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points TROY	32	17	7	2	10
UK	30	10	11	8	20

Last FG - TROY 2nd-01:08, UK 2nd-02:46.
Largest lead - TROY None, UK by 21 2nd-17:51.
TROY led for 00:00. UK led for 39:14. Game was tied for 00:46.

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 0 times.

GAME SIX
#8/8 KENTUCKY 86, FORT WAYNE 67

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Fort Wayne vs Kentucky
11/22/17 8:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Fort Wayne 67 • 3-2, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Taylor, Xzavier	f	1-5	0-1	3-4	2	0	2	3	5	1	2	0	1	25
01	Scott, Bryson	g	7-16	1-6	3-6	0	2	2	1	18	2	2	0	1	33
05	Levitch, Jax		1-4	1-4	0-0	0	4	4	1	3	0	1	0	0	28
32	Harrell, Kason	g	4-12	4-11	0-0	1	0	1	4	12	1	0	0	2	26
55	Konchar, John	g	7-13	5-9	5-5	1	5	6	2	19	1	3	0	3	36
11	Carl, Dylan		2-3	0-0	1-2	2	0	2	4	5	0	1	0	0	9
21	King, Jordon		1-3	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	10
33	Weiri, Matt		1-4	1-4	0-0	0	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	25
34	Benford, Cameron		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
35	Stevens, Jairus		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		24-60	12-37	7-14	7	14	21	20	67	13	10	0	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-32 37.5% 2nd half: 12-28 42.9% Game: 24-60 40.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 8-22 36.4% 2nd half: 4-15 26.7% Game: 12-37 32.4%
FT % 1st Half: 5-6 83.3% 2nd half: 2-8 25.0% Game: 7-14 50.0%

Deadball Rebounds 1,1

Kentucky 86 • 5-1, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	9-10	0-0	7-7	5	10	15	4	25	1	1	2	0	26
05	Knox, Kevin	f	4-10	1-3	2-2	2	4	6	3	11	3	1	0	0	35
25	Washington, PJ	f	2-5	0-1	3-8	1	2	3	1	7	0	0	0	0	25
00	Green, Quade	g	5-6	1-1	0-0	2	2	4	1	11	5	3	0	0	22
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	3-7	2-3	0-0	1	3	4	4	8	3	2	0	1	28
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		2-4	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	2	4	0	1	1	0	10
10	David, Jonny		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	Calipari, Brad		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
14	Wynyard, Tai		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		5-8	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	3	11	4	2	0	4	26
30	Pulliam, Dillon		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		3-4	1-2	2-5	2	8	10	1	9	1	4	0	1	19
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		33-55	5-11	15-24	15	32	46	18	86	17	16	3	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 19-27 70.4% 2nd half: 14-28 50.0% Game: 33-55 60.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 2-4 50.0% Game: 5-11 45.5%
FT % 1st Half: 4-4 100.0 2nd half: 11-20 55.0% Game: 15-24 62.5%

Deadball Rebounds 4,3

Officials: Mike Nance, Rob Rorke, Owen Shortt
Technical fouls: Fort Wayne-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 20645

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Fort Wayne	37	30	**67**
Kentucky	45	41	**86**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points FW	22	23	6	2	10
UK	44	9	16	10	24

Last FG - FW 2nd-00:29, UK 2nd-01:58.
Largest lead - FW by 4 1st-10:03, UK by 30 2nd-06:50.
FW led for 04:14. UK led for 33:16. Game was tied for 02:30.

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 8 times.

GAME SEVEN
#8/8 KENTUCKY 107, UIC 73

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
UIC vs Kentucky
11/26/17 6:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

UIC 73 • 2-3, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
10	Dixson, Dikembe	f	4-12	0-3	6-10	0	2	2	3	14	1	3	0	0

BOX SCORES

GAME 10
#8/5 KENTUCKY 93, RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH 86

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Virginia Tech vs Kentucky
12/16/17 2:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Virginia Tech 86 • 9-2,0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
24	Blackshear, Kerry	f	7-11	1-2	3-4	1	4	5	5	18	2	4	0	0	22
04	Alexander-Walker, N	g	3-6	0-1	0-0	1	3	4	2	6	2	4	0	0	26
05	Robinson, Justin	g	6-13	2-5	5-6	2	3	5	4	19	9	3	0	1	38
10	Bibbs, Justin	g	5-10	2-6	0-0	0	1	1	2	12	1	2	1	1	38
13	Hill, Ahmed	g	7-10	5-7	1-1	0	1	1	2	20	0	2	0	0	34
01	Jackson, Tyrie		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	Wilson, Devin		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	2	0	2	0	0	10
15	Clarke, Chris		3-4	0-1	3-6	1	10	11	4	9	4	2	0	1	31
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		32-55	10-22	12-17	6	24	30	22	86	18	19	1	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-29 62.1% 2nd half: 14-26 53.8% Game: 32-55 58.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 7-12 58.3% 2nd half: 3-10 30.0% Game: 10-22 45.5%
FT % 1st Half: 4-5 80.0% 2nd half: 8-12 66.7% Game: 12-17 70.6%
Deadball Rebounds: 2,1

Kentucky 93 • 9-1, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	3-5	0-0	2-4	3	3	6	2	8	1	1	3	0	22
05	Knox, Kevin	f	7-15	2-5	5-6	2	3	5	2	21	4	2	0	1	35
25	Washington, PJ	f	4-10	1-2	2-4	2	3	5	1	11	5	2	1	1	33
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	7-16	4-7	2-4	2	3	5	2	20	2	3	0	3	34
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	3-5	1-1	2-2	0	0	0	3	9	1	0	0	2	21
00	Green, Quade		6-12	2-5	3-4	1	0	1	1	17	5	1	0	0	27
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		3-5	1-2	0-0	3	6	9	3	7	0	2	0	1	21
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		33-68	11-22	16-24	14	19	33	16	93	18	11	4	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-35 45.7% 2nd half: 17-33 51.5% Game: 33-68 48.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 7-13 53.8% 2nd half: 4-9 44.4% Game: 11-22 50.0%
FT % 1st Half: 2-4 50.0% 2nd half: 14-20 70.0% Game: 16-24 66.7%
Deadball Rebounds: 4,1

Officials: Tony Greene, Don Daily, Jamie Luckie
Technical fouls: Virginia Tech-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 22690

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Virginia Tech	47	39	**86**
Kentucky	41	52	**93**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
VT	44	13	12	8	11
UK	34	36	18	6	24

Last FG - VT 2nd-00:11, UK 2nd-00:50.
Largest lead - VT by 8 1st-01:08, UK by 8 2nd-03:08.
VT led for 15:32. UK led for 19:43. Game was tied for 04:45.

Score tied - 8 times.
Lead changed - 11 times.

GAME 11
UCLA 83, #7/6 KENTUCKY 75

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
UCLA vs Kentucky
12/23/17 3 p.m. at Smoothie King Center, New Orleans, La.

UCLA 83 • 9-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
14	Goloman, Gyorgy	f	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	5	7	4	2	2	0	2	2	25
40	Welsh, Thomas	c	5-11	3-6	0-0	2	9	11	4	13	1	2	0	3	35
03	Holiday, Aaron	g	7-14	2-6	4-4	1	2	3	2	20	8	7	0	2	36
13	Wilkes, Kris	g	7-15	3-9	3-4	2	3	5	1	20	1	1	0	1	35
23	Ali, Prince	g	4-7	2-2	2-3	1	2	3	1	12	0	2	0	1	20
00	Olesinski, Alex		0-2	0-1	2-2	3	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	2	18
04	Hands, Jaylen		5-10	2-6	2-2	0	2	2	0	14	2	1	0	1	24
05	Smith, Chris		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
34	Okwarabizie, Ikenna		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		29-61	12-30	13-15	11	26	37	14	83	14	14	2	12	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-33 48.5% 2nd half: 13-28 46.4% Game: 29-61 47.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-16 37.5% 2nd half: 6-14 42.9% Game: 12-30 40.0%
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 12-13 92.3% Game: 13-15 86.7%
Deadball Rebounds: 2

Kentucky 75 • 9-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	3-5	0-0	1-2	1	5	6	1	7	2	2	1	0	26
05	Knox, Kevin	f	6-12	2-5	1-2	0	5	5	4	15	3	4	0	2	35
25	Washington, PJ	f	3-8	0-1	3-3	1	3	4	0	9	1	0	1	1	27
00	Green, Quade	g	1-7	0-4	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	20
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	7-18	1-5	3-5	0	4	4	3	18	1	2	0	0	29
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		0-1	0-0	2-2	2	1	3	3	2	0	0	0	2	6
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		3-7	0-2	0-0	1	2	3	2	6	5	1	0	1	31
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		6-10	3-4	1-2	6	0	6	3	16	0	1	1	2	26
	Team					3	2	5							
	Totals		29-68	6-21	11-16	16	20	36	16	75	14	14	3	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-41 39.0% 2nd half: 13-27 48.1% Game: 29-68 42.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-10 20.0% 2nd half: 4-11 36.4% Game: 6-21 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 5-6 83.3% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 11-16 68.8%
Deadball Rebounds: 2,1

Officials: Verne Harris, Doug Shows, Jeff Clark
Technical fouls: UCLA-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 8119
CBS Sports Classic, Game 2

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
UCLA	39	44	**83**
Kentucky	39	36	**75**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UCLA	22	17	20	14	16
UK	36	21	10	19	24

Last FG - UCLA 2nd-00:33, UK 2nd-00:58.
Largest lead - UCLA by 12 2nd-07:33, UK by 8 1st-04:32.
UCLA led for 28:23. UK led for 08:41. Game was tied for 02:56.

Score tied - 3 times.
Lead changed - 8 times.

GAME 12
#16/15 KENTUCKY 90, RV/RV LOUISVILLE 61

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Louisville vs Kentucky
12/29/17 1:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Louisville 61 • 10-3, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	King, V.J.		5-10	1-3	1-1	1	3	4	3	12	0	0	0	0	24
13	Spalding, Ray	f	6-11	0-0	0-1	6	5	11	3	12	1	2	1	1	28
14	Mahmoud, Anas	f	2-3	0-0	0-0	1	3	4	5	4	0	2	1	1	16
22	Adel, Deng	g	4-12	1-6	4-4	0	4	4	0	13	3	3	1	0	36
04	Snider, Quentin	g	3-11	0-2	0-1	0	3	3	1	7	4	0	0	0	29
01	Thomas, Lance		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
02	Perry, Darius		0-3	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	7
05	Williams, Malik		3-8	1-4	1-2	2	3	5	2	8	0	1	1	0	15
24	Sutton, Dwayne		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	5
30	McMahon, Ryan		0-4	0-3	2-2	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	16
33	Nwora, Jordan		1-4	0-3	1-2	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	19
	Team					3	2	5							
	Totals		24-69	3-25	10-13	13	24	37	25	61	10	11	5	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-37 29.7% 2nd half: 13-32 40.6% Game: 24-69 34.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-11 9.1% 2nd half: 2-14 14.3% Game: 3-25 12.0%
FT % 1st Half: 4-5 80.0% 2nd half: 6-8 75.0% Game: 10-13 76.9%
Deadball Rebounds: 3

Kentucky 90 • 10-2, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	1-4	0-0	2-2	2	4	6	2	4	0	0	2	0	17
05	Knox, Kevin	f	2-8	0-3	4-5	0	7	7	5	8	0	2	0	0	17
25	Washington, PJ	f	5-10	0-1	6-6	2	5	7	1	16	2	2	1	0	31
00	Green, Quade	g	4-6	3-4	2-2	0	0	0	3	13	5	3	0	0	27
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	5-11	1-2	3-6	1	4	5	4	14	0	1	0	2	29
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		3-5	0-0	2-3	2	2	4	4	8	0	0	0	0	19
10	David, Jonny		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	Calipari, Brad		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		9-16	1-2	5-6	2	3	5	0	24	4	1	0	3	33
30	Pulliam, Dillon		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		1-2	1-1	0-0	2	5	7	2	3	1	2	2	0	23
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		30-62	6-13	24-30	12	32	44	19	90	13	11	5	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-32 40.6% 2nd half: 17-30 56.7% Game: 30-62 48.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-6 50.0% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 6-13 46.2%
FT % 1st Half: 12-18 66.7% 2nd half: 12-12 100.0% Game: 24-30 80.0%
Deadball Rebounds: 2

Officials: Pat Adams, Joe Lindsay, Don Daily
Technical fouls: Louisville-Sutton, Dwayne. Kentucky-Killeya-Jones, Sacha.
Attendance: 24228

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Louisville	27	34	**61**
Kentucky	41	49	**90**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
LOU	32	10	15	4	13
UK	42	16	12	10	35

Last FG - LOU 2nd-02:24, UK 2nd-00:13.
Largest lead - LOU by 6 1st-15:06, UK by 32 2nd-08:06.
LOU led for 06:18. UK led for 30:44. Game was tied for 02:58.

Score tied - 4 times.
Lead changed - 4 times.

GAME 13
#16/15 KENTUCKY 66, GEORGIA 61

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Georgia vs Kentucky
12/31/17 6:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Georgia 61 • 9-3, 0-1 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Mateen, Yante	f	5-15	1-4	6-8	5	7	12	3	17	2	1	1	0	36
13	Wilridge, E'Torrion	f	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	11
20	Hammonds, Rayshaun	f	5-7	0-1	2-5	3	2	5	3	12	1	1	0	0	31
02	Gabdybek, Derek	f	6-7	0-0	1-3	3	3	6	4	13	0	4	0	0	28
00	Jackson II, William	g	2-6	1-5	0-0	1	1	2	5	5	1	0	1	0	23
02	Harris, Jordan		1-4	0-2	0-0	0	3	3	3	2	2	2	0	0	21
03	Parker, Juwan		2-4	0-0	1-1	0	2	2	5	5	0	1	1	1	17
04	Crump, Tyree		1-9	0-6	2-2	0	2	2	3	4	3	2	0	0	12
10	Hightower, Teshaun		0-2	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	5
32	Edwards, Mike		0-1	0-0	1-2	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
33	Claxton, Nicolas		1-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
	Team					1	1	2				2			
	Totals		23-58	2-21	13-21	14	24	38	26	61	10	15	3	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-35 34.3% 2nd half: 11-23 47.8% Game: 23-58 39.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 0-11 0.0% 2nd half: 2-10 20.0% Game: 2-21 9.5%
FT % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 10-16 62.5% Game: 13-21 61.9%
Deadball Rebounds: 2,2

Kentucky 66 • 11-2, 1-0 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
05	Knox, Kevin	f	2-10	1-4	2-3	1	3	4	3	7	3	1	0	1	28
25	Washington, PJ	f	2-5	0-1	3-6	1	1	2	5	7	1	0	2	1	15
00	Green, Quade	g	4-10	1-4	6-8	1	3	4	2	15	1	2	0	0	25
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	3-8	0-1	4-8	3	7	10	3	10	0	0	0	1	34
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	1	1	1	0	21
14	Wynyard, Tai		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	7
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		4-9	1-1	12-13	3	2	5	0	21	4	1	2	3	33
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		2-9	2-5	0-0	3	7	10	4	6	0	3	1	1	34
	Team					1	3	4							
	Totals		17-54	5-16	27-38	15	27	42	23	66	10	9	6	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 6-29 20.7% 2nd half: 11-25 44.0% Game: 17-54 31.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-8 12.5% 2nd half: 4-8 50.0% Game: 5-16 31.3%
FT % 1st Half: 13-15 86.7% 2nd half: 14-23 60.9% Game: 27-38 71.1%
Deadball Rebounds: 1,4

Officials: Tony Greene, Tony Henderson, Ron Groover
Technical fouls: Georgia-TEAM. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 22862

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Georgia	27	34	**61**
Kentucky	26	40	**66**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UGA	34	13	16	6	14
UK	22	19	14	8	27

Last FG - UGA 2nd-00:29, UK 2nd-01:08.
Largest lead - UGA by 8 2nd-16:06, UK by 7 2nd-00:37.
UGA led for 28:08. UK led for 06:48. Game was tied for 05:04.

Score tied - 4 times.
Lead changed - 5 times.

GAME 14
#17/14 KENTUCKY 74, LSU 71

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs LSU
1/3/18 7:35 PM at Maravich Center (Baton Rouge, La.)

Kentucky 74 • 12-2 (2-0)

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	10
05	Knox, Kevin	f	7-12	2-3	0-0	2	9	11	1	16	1	2	0	0	35
25	Washington, PJ	f	8-11	0-1	2-4	3	3	6	3	18	2	1	2	0	36
00	Green, Quade	g	3-6	0-1	1-2	0	3	3	0	7	2	3	0	0	31
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	5-8	1-2	0-0	1	1	2	1	7	0	4	0	1	22
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		1-3	0-0	0-2	2	3	5	0	2	3	1	0	0	12
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		7-16	1-2	3-3	0	2	2	1	18	4	3	1	2	32
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		1-3	1-3	1-2	1	3	4	3	4	1	0	0	3	22
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		31-61	5-12	7-13	10	25	35	10	74	13	14	3	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-28 50.0% 2nd half: 17-33 51.5% Game: 31-61 50.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 2-7 28.6% Game: 5-12 41.7%
FT % 1st Half: 0-0 0.0% 2nd half: 7-13 53.8% Game: 7-13 53.8%
Deadball Rebounds: 2,2

LSU 71 • 9-4 (0-1)

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Duop Reath	f	11-17	2-3	0-0	4	7	11	3	24	2	2	2	1	35
21	Aaron Epps	f	6-11	1-5	0-0	2	1	3	2	13	1	2	2	0	26
03	Tremont Waters	g	6-13	2-9	4-4	1	10	11	0	18	3	2	1	2	37
04	Skylar Mays	g	2-11	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	5	3	1	0	2	30
05	Daryl Edwards	g	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
00	Brandon Sampson		1-7	0-5	0-0	1	1	2	3	2	4	1	0	0	29
14	Randy Onwuasor		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	13
35	Mayan Kilir		0-0	0-0	1-2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
44	Wayde Sims		3-5	0-1	2-3	1	0	1	2	8	0	1	0	0	18
	Team					1	2	3							
	Totals		29-65	6-24	7-9	10	24	34	14	71	14	11	5	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-32 46.9% 2nd half: 14-33 42.4% Game: 29-65 44.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-11 45.5% 2nd half: 1-13 7.7% Game: 6-24 25.0%
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 6-7 85.7% Game: 7-9 77.8%
Deadball Rebounds: 1

Officials: Terry Oglesby, Byron Jarrett, Kipp Kissinger
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. LSU-None.
Attendance: 11952

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	31	43	**74**
LSU	36	35	**71**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	46	12	8	2	24
LSU	44	9	12	2	11

Last FG - UK 2nd-01:16, LSU 2nd-00:23.
Largest lead - UK by 7 1st-17:47, LSU by 7 2nd-19:39.
UK led for 25:18. LSU led for 12:04. Game was tied for 02:32.

Score tied - 5 times.
Lead changed - 12 times.

GAME 15
#23/22 TENNESSEE 76, #17/14 KENTUCKY 65

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Tennessee
01/06/18 9:02 p.m. at Knoxville, Tenn. (Thompson-Boling Arena)

Kentucky 65 • 12-3, 2-1 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	4-4	0-0	1-2	2	6	8	1	9	0	0	1	0	24
05	Knox, Kevin	f	1-9	0-5	4-4	0	5	5	4	6	0	2	1	0	31
25	Washington, PJ	f	6-8	0-1	1-3	0	3	3	1	13	1	2	2	3	23
00	Green, Quade	g	5-14	3-7	1-2	0	0	0	1	14	2	1	0	1	33
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	2-5	1-2	0-0	0	4	4	5	5	2	1	0	0	16
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		1-1	0-0	2-2	1	2	3	4	4	0	1	0	0	16
22	Gilgeous-Alexander		1-6	0-0	1-2	2	1	3	3	3	0	1	0	0	38
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		3-11	0-1	0-0	1	2	3	3	6	0	1	0	0	22
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		24-52	7-19	10-16	8	22	30	23	65	14	16	4	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-27 55.6% 2nd half: 9-25 36.0% Game: 24-52 46.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-8 50.0% 2nd half: 3-11 27.3% Game: 7-19 36.8%
FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 7-12 58.3% Game: 10-16 62.5%
Deadball Rebounds: 1

Tennessee 76 • 10-4, 1-2 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
02	Williams, Grant	f	7-13	0-0	4-5	4	4	8	4	18	4	3	1	1	35
05	Schofield, Admiral	f	8-13	1-1	3-7	3	9	12	4	20	4	2	1	4	33
14	Alexander, Kyle	f	3-3	0-0	3-5	2	3	5	4	9	0	2	1	2	24
00	Bone, Jordan	g	2-3	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	9
13	Bowden, Jordan	g	1-7	1-3	4-4	0	3	3	0	7	0	1	0	1	21
01	Turner, Lamonte		2-11	2-8	5-7	0	4	4	1	11	5	1	0	0	30
03	Daniel, James		1-3	1-3	0-0	1	2	3	2	3	6	1	0	0	27
10	Fulkerson, John		1-2	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	3	3	0	3	0	1	19
15	Walker, Derrick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		25-55	8-22	18-24	12	25	37	16	76	23	12	4	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 8-24 33.3% 2nd half: 17-31 54.8% Game: 25-55 45.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-10 40.0% 2nd half: 4-12 33.3% Game: 8-22 36.4%
FT % 1st Half: 9-9 100.0 2nd half: 9-15 60.0% Game: 18-24 75.0%
Deadball Rebounds: 2

Officials: Mike Nance, Anthony Jordan, Brian Shey
Technical fouls: Kentucky-Killeya-Jones, Sacha; TEAM. Tennessee-Turner, Lamonte; TEAM.
Attendance: 21678

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	37	28	**65**
Tennessee	29	47	**76**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	32	16	10	9	18
UT	30	16	16	4	17

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:51, UT 2nd-00:23.
Largest lead - UK by 9 1st-07:51, UT by 11 2nd-06:18.
UK led for 19:17. UT led for 13:58. Game was tied for 06:45.

Score tied - 7 times.
Lead changed - 5 times.

GAME 16
#21/20 KENTUCKY 74, RV/RV TEXAS A&M 73

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
RV/RV TEXAS A&M vs Kentucky
1/9/18 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

RV/RV TEXAS A&M 73 • 11-5, 0-4

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Hogg, DJ	f	4-12	1-7	0-1	1	3	4	2	9	3	2	1	1	35
44	Williams, Robert	f	5-7	0-1	2-6	4	8	12	2	12	2	0	1	1	22
34	Davis, Ty

BOX SCORES

GAME 19
RV/RV FLORIDA 66, #18/16 KENTUCKY 64

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
rv / rv Florida vs Kentucky
01/20/18 8:15 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

rv / rv Florida 66 • 14-5, 6-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
25	Stone, Keith	f	5-9	2-4	2-3	1	2	3	4	14	1	1	0	2	23
13	Hayes, Kevarrius	c	4-6	0-0	1-6	4	5	9	3	9	0	1	1	2	32
04	Koulechov, Egor	g	0-8	0-5	2-2	3	6	9	1	2	0	0	1	1	31
05	Allen, KeVaughn	g	4-16	1-7	2-2	1	0	1	0	11	2	2	0	1	38
11	Chiozza, Chris	g	5-11	1-5	2-2	0	6	6	1	13	8	1	0	0	34
00	Okauru, Mike		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
03	Hudson, Jalen		4-13	2-8	7-10	1	4	5	2	17	1	1	1	0	29
21	Bassett, Dontay		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	5
24	Ballard, Deaundrae		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Team					4	1	5				1			
	Totals		22-66	6-30	16-25	14	24	38	14	66	12	7	4	6	200

	1st Half	2nd Half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	11-32 34.4%	11-34 32.4%	22-66 33.3%	
3FG %	1st Half: 3-13 23.1%	2nd half: 3-17 17.6%	Game: 6-30 20.0%	
FT %	1st Half: 8-12 66.7%	2nd half: 8-13 61.5%	Game: 16-25 64.0%	5,1

Kentucky 64 • 14-5, 4-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	2-3	0-0	4-6	4	5	9	0	8	1	2	2	0	20
05	Knox, Kevin	f	4-10	1-4	0-0	0	4	4	3	9	1	3	0	1	25
25	Washington, PJ	f	3-10	0-1	0-0	3	4	7	1	6	0	1	1	1	28
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	3-8	1-4	1-2	1	5	6	2	8	3	2	1	1	31
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	4-12	1-1	1-2	0	4	4	2	10	6	4	0	1	35
00	Green, Quade		1-8	0-4	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	17
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		3-3	0-0	1-1	2	1	3	3	7	0	3	0	0	12
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		2-5	0-0	0-0	2	4	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	13
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		4-6	1-3	1-1	1	6	7	3	10	0	2	0	0	19
	Team					3	0	3							
	Totals		26-65	4-17	8-12	16	33	49	17	64	13	17	4	4	200

	1st Half	2nd half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 13-32 40.6%	2nd half: 13-33 39.4%	Game: 26-65 40.0%	
3FG %	1st Half: 0-6 0.0%	2nd half: 4-11 36.4%	Game: 4-17 23.5%	
FT %	1st Half: 5-6 83.3%	2nd half: 3-6 50.0%	Game: 8-12 66.7%	2,1

Officials: Anthony Jordan, Terry Oglesby, Bryon Jarrett
Technical fouls: rv/rv Florida-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 24394

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
rv/rv Florida	33	33	**66**
Kentucky	31	33	**64**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	26	9	12	7	17
UF	38	9	12	6	23
UK					

Last FG - UF 2nd-02:02, UK 2nd-00:27.
Largest lead - UF by 8 2nd-15:39, UK by 8 1st-05:05.
UF led for 20:42. UK led for 14:05. Game was tied for 04:48.

Score tied - 12 times.
Lead changed - 4 times.

GAME 20
RV/RV KENTUCKY 78, MISSISSIPPI ST. 65

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Mississippi State vs Kentucky
01/23/18 9:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Mississippi State 65 • 14-6, 2-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
24	Ado, Abdul	f	0-4	0-0	2-3	2	3	5	1	2	0	2	1	0	31
35	Holman, Aric	f	3-6	0-3	0-0	1	5	6	4	6	0	2	3	1	21
00	Weatherspoon, Nick	g	4-8	1-3	1-2	1	3	4	2	10	0	2	0	0	22
01	Peters, Lamar	g	4-11	1-5	0-0	0	0	0	3	9	5	2	0	1	33
11	Weatherspoon, Q	g	8-16	1-5	2-2	3	6	9	3	19	6	2	0	1	31
02	Wright, Eli		1-2	0-1	2-2	1	0	1	1	4	1	0	0	0	11
03	Stapleton, Xavian		3-6	0-2	0-0	0	2	2	5	6	2	0	0	0	21
22	Feazell, KeyShawn		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
23	Carter, Tyson		2-11	2-10	1-1	0	1	1	2	7	2	0	0	2	21
45	Datcher, EJ		1-3	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	6
	Team					1	1	2			1				
	Totals		26-67	5-29	8-10	10	21	31	23	65	16	11	4	5	200

	1st Half	2nd half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 13-33 39.4%	2nd half: 13-34 38.2%	Game: 26-67 38.8%	
3FG %	1st Half: 3-14 21.4%	2nd half: 2-15 13.3%	Game: 5-29 17.2%	
FT %	1st Half: 7-8 87.5%	2nd half: 1-2 50.0%	Game: 8-10 80.0%	4,1

Kentucky 78 • 15-5, 5-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
05	Knox, Kevin	f	5-6	4-4	5-6	1	5	6	1	19	1	4	0	2	36
25	Washington, PJ	f	6-10	0-2	10-14	2	4	6	2	22	2	2	2	3	31
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	3-8	0-2	0-1	0	7	7	2	6	2	3	2	2	27
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	6-15	0-3	4-4	0	4	4	1	16	6	0	0	0	35
00	Green, Quade		0-2	0-1	4-4	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	20
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		1-3	0-0	0-1	2	1	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	10
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		1-7	0-0	0-0	4	3	7	2	2	0	0	1	0	11
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		3-6	1-2	0-0	3	3	6	4	7	0	0	0	0	19
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		25-58	5-14	23-30	13	28	41	13	78	11	11	5	7	200

	1st Half	2nd half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 13-31 41.9%	2nd half: 12-27 44.4%	Game: 25-58 43.1%	
3FG %	1st Half: 3-8 37.5%	2nd half: 2-6 33.3%	Game: 5-14 35.7%	
FT %	1st Half: 9-12 75.0%	2nd half: 14-18 77.8%	Game: 23-30 76.7%	5,1

Officials: Pat Adams, Karl Hess, Vladimir Voyard-Tadal
Technical fouls: Mississippi State-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 20609

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Mississippi State	36	29	**65**
Kentucky	38	40	**78**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	34	18	13	12	19
MS	36	9	9	6	15
UK					

Last FG - MS 2nd-01:09, UK 2nd-01:16.
Largest lead - MS by 6 1st-14:04, UK by 13 2nd-00:40.
MS led for 10:29. UK led for 24:36. Game was tied for 04:53.

Score tied - 10 times.
Lead changed - 8 times.

GAME 21
RV/RV KENTUCKY 83, #7/7 WEST VIRGINIA 76

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs #7/7 West Virginia
1/27/18 7:00 p.m. at WVU Coliseum, Morgantown, W.Va.

Kentucky 83 • 16-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	2-4	0-0	5-6	2	6	8	4	9	0	2	1	0	20
05	Knox, Kevin	f	11-17	5-8	7-8	4	3	7	1	34	0	1	0	0	35
25	Washington, PJ	f	1-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	3	2	0	2	1	0	11
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	4-8	1-1	4-5	1	2	3	3	13	2	2	0	0	25
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	3-7	0-1	0-2	0	6	6	2	6	5	4	2	0	32
00	Green, Quade		2-5	2-4	2-2	0	2	2	1	8	4	4	0	1	27
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		2-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	11
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		0-6	0-0	1-2	7	4	11	1	1	2	1	0	0	11
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		1-7	0-4	4-4	5	4	9	3	6	3	0	3	0	28
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		26-58	8-18	23-29	21	28	49	20	83	16	16	7	1	200

	1st Half	2nd half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 12-28 42.9%	2nd half: 14-30 46.7%	Game: 26-58 44.8%	
3FG %	1st Half: 4-9 44.4%	2nd half: 4-9 44.4%	Game: 8-18 44.4%	
FT %	1st Half: 5-11 45.5%	2nd half: 18-18 100.0	Game: 23-29 79.3%	1

#7/7 West Virginia 76 • 16-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
15	West, Lamont	f	1-3	0-1	3-3	1	2	3	2	5	0	1	0	0	15
21	Harris, Wesley	f	1-4	0-1	0-1	1	2	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	14
50	Konate, Sagaba	f	6-9	0-0	1-3	2	4	6	4	13	1	0	1	1	23
02	Carter, Jevon	g	9-20	4-5	4-4	1	2	3	2	26	7	2	0	2	38
04	Miller Jr., Daxter	g	2-8	0-4	3-4	0	3	3	2	7	3	2	0	1	27
03	Bolden, James		6-12	5-10	0-0	0	1	1	1	17	0	1	0	0	17
13	Allen, Teddy		0-2	0-0	1-3	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	8
14	Harler, Chase		1-2	1-2	0-0	1	1	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	10
23	Ahmad, Esa		0-7	0-1	0-0	3	1	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	20
25	Bender, Maciej		1-1	0-0	0-0	2	2	4	1	2	0	0	0	1	19
31	Routt, Logan		0-0	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Team					3	1	4							
	Totals		27-68	10-24	12-18	17	17	34	23	76	12	6	7	6	200

	1st Half	2nd half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 16-34 47.1%	2nd half: 11-34 32.4%	Game: 27-68 39.7%	
3FG %	1st Half: 7-12 58.3%	2nd half: 3-12 25.0%	Game: 10-24 41.7%	
FT %	1st Half: 9-12 75.0%	2nd half: 3-6 50.0%	Game: 12-18 66.7%	1

Officials: Joe DeRosa, Mike Roberts, Kipp Kissinger
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. #7/7 West Virginia-None.
Attendance: 15835
Big 12/SEC Challenge

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	33	50	**83**
#7/7 West Virginia	48	28	**76**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	30	5	26	10	19
WVU	26	19	14	2	23

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:29, WVU 2nd-01:26.
Largest lead - UK by 7 2nd-00:20, WVU by 17 1st-03:50.
UK led for 08:16. WVU led for 28:08. Game was tied for 03:34.

Score tied - 6 times.
Lead changed - 5 times.

GAME 22
#21/22 KENTUCKY 83, VANDERBILT 81OT

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Vanderbilt vs Kentucky
01/30/18 9:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington,KY

Vanderbilt 81 • 8-14, 2-7

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
11	ROBERSON, Jeff	f	5-9	3-6	10-11	2	6	8	4	23	2	2	0	0	43
50	OBINNA, Ejike	f	3-6	0-0	2-3	0	1	1	2	8	0	0	0	0	8
00	LEE, Saben	g	3-7	0-1	2-4	0	4	4	2	8	3	3	0	2	33
10	EVANS, Maxwell	g	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	11
13	LaCHANCE, Riley	g	5-15	3-8	0-1	0	2	2	4	13	6	2	0	0	36
01	WILLIS, Payton		3-7	2-5	0-0	1	3	4	0	8	1	2	0	0	19
02	TOYE, Joe		7-11	1-3	1-2	0	5	5	4	16	1	1	0	1	31
03	AUSTIN, JR., Larry		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	4
12	BAPTISTE, Djery		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	9
15	BROWN, Clevon		1-2	0-1	1-2	5	2	7	1	3	0	1	2	0	31
	Team					2	0	2				2			
	Totals		28-59	9-25	16-23	10	27	37	23	81	14	15	3	3	225

	1st Half	2nd half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 12-27 44.4%	2nd half: 12-23 52.2%	OT: 4-9 44.4%	Game: 28-59 47.5%
3FG %	1st Half: 4-10 40.0%	2nd half: 3-10 30.0%	OT: 2-5 40.0%	Game: 9-25 36.0%
FT %	1st Half: 5-7 71.4%	2nd half: 11-14 78.6%	OT: 0-2 0.0%	Game: 16-23 69.6%

Kentucky 83 • 17-5, 6-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	2-5	0-0	6-7	3	3	6	3	10	0	0	2	0	12
05	Knox, Kevin	f	6-15	2-6	4-7	1	7	8	2	18	0	1	0	1	40
32	Gabriel, Wenyen	f	0-2	0-2	0-0	2	4	6	3	0	0	2	0	1	31
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	0-3	0-1	2-4	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	21
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	12-19	1-1	5-5	0	1	1	3	30	3	3	1	1	38
00	Green, Quade		5-11	2-4	0-0	0	0	0	3	12	0	1	0	0	31
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	3	2	0	0	1	0	12
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		1-2	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	3	3	0	1	0	1	7
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		2-6	0-0	2-2	1	4	5	2	6	3	1	0	2	33
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		29-64	5-14	20-27	10	25	35	22	83	7	9	4	6	225

	1st Half	2nd half	OT	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 10-27 37.0%	2nd half: 15-30 50.0%	OT: 4-7 57.1%	Game: 29-64 45.3%	
3FG %	1st Half: 1-5 20.0%	2nd half: 3-8 37.5%	OT: 1-1 100.0	Game: 5-14 35.7%	
FT %	1st Half: 6-11 54.5%	2nd half: 11-13 84.6%	OT: 3-3 100.0	Game: 20-27 74.1%	4,1

Officials: Mike Nance, Michael Roberts, Ron Groover
Technical fouls: Vanderbilt-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 21143

Score by periods	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Vanderbilt	33	38	10	**81**
Kentucky	27	44	12	**83**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	36	12	5	8	29
VU	28	18	11	0	23
UK					

Last FG - VU OT-00:12, UK OT-00:05.
Largest lead - VU by 14 2nd-15:23, UK by 5 1st-15:47.
VU led for 30:12. UK led for 12:47. Game was tied for 02:01.

Score tied - 5 times.
Lead changed - 7 times.

GAME 23
MISSOURI 69, #21/22 KENTUCKY 60

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Mizzou
02/03/18 1:07 PM at Columbia, Mo. (Mizzou Arena)

Kentucky 60 • 17-6, 6-4

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
03	Diallo, Hamidou	*	3-8	0-2	2-2	1	2	3	5	8	0	2	0	0	22
04	Richards, Nick	*	1-2	0-0	1-2	0	2	2	2	3	0	1	0	0	10
05	Knox, Kevin	*	2-6	0-2	1-3	2	1	3	3	5	1	2	0	0	25
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	*	5-16	0-3	5-5	2	0	2	3	15	6	2	0	2	35
25	Washington, PJ	*	2-8	0-2	0-1	3	4	7	3	4	1	1	0	1	30
00	Green, Quade		2-11	1-6	0-0	1	1	2	1	5	0	1	0	2	23
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		2-3	0-0	0-2	2	2	4	4	4	0	1	0	0	21
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		1-5	0-0	6-6	4	6	10	4	8	1	1	1	1	16
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		3-8	1-5	1-2	0	1	1	4	8	0	1	1	1	18
	Team					5	1	6							
	Totals		21-67	2-20	16-23	20	20	40	29	60	9	12	2	7	200

	1st Half	2nd half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 6-30 20.0%	2nd half: 15-37 40.5%	Game: 21-67 31.3%	
3FG %	1st Half: 0-10 0.0%	2nd half: 2-10 20.0%	Game: 2-20 10.0%	
FT %	1st Half: 6-11 54.5%	2nd half: 10-12 83.3%	Game: 16-23 69.6%	2

Mizzou 69 • 15-8, 5-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
03	ROBERTSON, Kassius	*	3-8	2-6	8-8	0	3	3	2	16	4	5	0	0	39
21	BARNETT, Jordan	*	4-10	2-7	6-7	0	6	6	2	16	1	4	1	0	38
23	TILMON, Jeremiah	*	4-4	0-0	1-2	1	4	5	4	9	2	1	2	1	22
24	PURYEAR, Kevin	*	2-7	0-3	3-4	3	2	5	2	7	2	1	1	0	24
33	VANLEER, Cullen	*	1-3	1-3	0-0	0	1	1	2	3	2	2	0	1	19
11	PORTER, Jontay		4-7	2-4	3-6	2	6	8	4	13	2	2	3	1	26
14	NIKKO, Reed		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	4	5	1	2	0	1	1	0	9
15	GEIST, Jordan		0-1	0-0	3-6	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	23
	Team					0	3	3				1			
	Totals		19-41	7-23	24-33	7	29	36	20	69	13	20	8	3	200

	1st Half	2nd half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 9-23 39.1%	2nd half: 10-18 55.6%	Game: 19-41 46.3%	
3FG %	1st Half: 2-12 16.7%	2nd half: 5-11 45.5%	Game: 7-23 30.4%	
FT %	1st Half: 8-14 57.1%	2nd half: 16-19 84.2%	Game: 24-33 72.7%	4,2

Officials: Pat Adams, Chuck Jones, Vladimir Voyard-Tadal
Technical fouls: Kentucky-Vanderbilt, Jarred. Mizzou-GEIST, Jordan.
Attendance: 15061

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	18	42	**60**
Mizzou	28	41	**69**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	26	15	11	0	25
MU-M	16	12	12	2	18
UK					

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:59, MU-M 2nd-06:37.
Largest lead - UK by 3 1st-13:54, MU-M by 14 2nd-09:09.
UK led for 05:01. MU-M led for 33:27. Game was tied for 01:32.

Score tied - 4 times.
Lead changed - 5 times.

GAME 24
#15/14 TENNESSEE 61, #24/24 KENTUCKY 59

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
15/14 Tennessee vs Kentucky
02/06/18 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

15/14 Tennessee 61 • 18-5, 8-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
02	Williams, Grant	f	1-3	0-0	8-10	1	2	3	4	10	2	2	2	1	0	28
05	Schofield, Admiral	f	6-16	0-6	0-0	2	4	6	2	12	1	1	1	1	1	36
11	Alexander, Kyle	f	3-4	0-0	0-0	2	2	4	2	6	0	1	1	2	1	24
00	Bone, Jordan	g	2-9	0-1	0-0	0	6	6	1	4	4	2	0	2	2	22
23	Bowden, Jordan	g	4-8	1-5	4-4	2	6	8	5	13	0	1	0	2	32
01	Turner, Lamonte		6-10	4-7	0-0	0	2	2	3	16	0	3	0	0	31
03	Daniel, James		0-2	0-2	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	3	3	0	1	13
10	Fulkerson, John		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
14	Walker, Derrick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
35	Pons, Yves		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		22-52	5-21	12-14	8	24	32	19	61	10	13	4	9	200

	1st Half	2nd half	Game	Deadball Rebounds
FG %	1st Half: 10-26 38.5%	2nd half: 12-26 46.2%	Game: 22-52 42.3%	
3FG %	1st Half: 3-9 33.3%	2nd half: 2-12 16.7%	Game: 5-21 23.8%	
FT %	1st Half: 4-6 66.7%	2nd half: 8-8 100.0	Game: 12-14 85.7%	1

Kentucky 59 • 17-7, 6-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	2-4	0-0	1-2	2	6	8	2	5	0	1	1	0	26
05	Knox, Kevin	f	3-11	0-3	4-5	0	3	3	0	10	1	0	0	0	37
25	Washington, PJ	f	0-3	0-1	4-4	1	2	3	4	4	0	2	1	0	17
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	0-3	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	13
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	5-10	0-3	5-8	0	6	6	1	15	6	3	1	2	39
00	Green, Quade		6-10	2-3	1-2	0	4	4	0	15	0	2	0	0	29
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		0-0	0-0	2-2	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	5
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		2-3	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	3	4	0	2	0	1	15
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		1-1	1-1	1-2	0	1	1	4	4	0	2	1	0	19
	Team					3	0	3							
	Tot

BOX SCORES

GAME 28
RV/RV KENTUCKY 87, RV/RV ALABAMA 72

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs RV/RV Arkansas
02/20/18 8:05 p.m. at Fayetteville, Ark. (Bud Walton Arena)

Kentucky 87 • 19-9, 8-7 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	0-0	0-0	1-2	1	1	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	7
05	Knox, Kevin	f	8-18	3-8	4-5	1	6	7	0	23	1	3	0	2	38
32	Gabriel, Wenyen	f	2-6	1-2	0-0	2	0	2	3	5	1	0	2	1	15
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	0-1	0-1	2-2	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	10
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	6-12	2-3	4-4	2	3	5	0	18	7	2	0	0	39
00	Green, Quade		4-12	2-7	2-2	2	4	6	2	12	4	1	0	0	34
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		1-2	0-0	0-0	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	7
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		4-6	0-0	3-4	6	3	9	3	11	0	1	0	1	19
25	Washington, PJ		6-10	0-0	1-1	2	8	10	3	13	3	3	2	2	31
	Team					0	2	2							
	Totals		31-67	8-21	17-20	18	28	46	19	87	16	11	4	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-34 47.1% 2nd half: 15-33 45.5% Game: 31-67 46.3%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-11 36.4% 2nd half: 4-10 40.0% Game: 8-21 38.1%
FT % 1st Half: 7-9 77.8% 2nd half: 10-11 90.9% Game: 17-20 85.0%

Deadball Rebounds: 1,1

RV/RV Arkansas 72 • 19-9, 8-7 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
10	GARSTON,DANIEL	f	2-6	0-0	5-9	2	3	5	2	9	1	1	4	0	23
13	THOMAS,DUSTIN	f	3-4	0-0	0-0	6	4	10	4	6	1	0	0	1	20
31	BEARD,ANTON	f	5-9	3-6	0-0	0	2	2	3	13	5	3	0	1	32
00	BARFORD,JAYLEN	g	4-16	2-7	2-2	1	0	1	2	12	1	0	1	0	30
04	MACON,,DARYL	g	8-16	4-9	6-7	0	1	1	2	26	1	1	0	0	32
01	THOMPSON,TREY		2-3	0-0	0-0	1	3	4	3	4	2	3	1	1	22
05	COOK,ARLANDO		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
20	HALL,DARIOUS		0-3	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	17
22	OSABUOHIEN,GABE		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	10
23	JONES,CJ		0-4	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	9
	Team					1	2	3							
	Totals		25-63	9-26	13-18	11	18	29	19	72	14	9	7	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-35 40.0% 2nd half: 11-28 39.3% Game: 25-63 39.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 8-19 42.1% 2nd half: 1-7 14.3% Game: 9-26 34.6%
FT % 1st Half: 7-11 63.6% 2nd half: 6-7 85.7% Game: 13-18 72.2%

Deadball Rebounds: 3,2

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Ted Valentine, Olandis Poole
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. RV/RV Arkansas-None.
Attendance: 18038

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	43	44	**87**
RV/RV Arkansas	43	29	**72**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	38	15	16	12	38
AR	26	9	16	11	6

Score tied - 12 times.
Lead changed - 9 times.

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:30, AR 2nd-00:20.
Largest lead - UK by 17 2nd-00:30, AR by 11 1st-17:01.
UK led for 14:41. AR led for 18:39. Game was tied for 06:40.

GAME 29
RV/RV KENTUCKY 87, RV/NR MISSOURI 66

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
RV/RV Missouri vs Kentucky
02/24/18 8:15 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

RV/RV Missouri 66 • 18-11, 8-8

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
21	BARNETT, Jordan	f	4-11	3-7	0-0	1	3	4	1	11	0	1	1	1	35
23	TILMON, Jeremiah	f	2-2	0-0	1-2	1	0	1	5	5	0	5	0	0	13
24	PURYEAR, Kevin	f	3-8	0-3	3-4	2	1	3	3	9	0	2	0	0	21
03	ROBERTSON, Kassius	g	7-15	6-11	6-9	2	6	8	4	26	3	2	0	1	33
33	VANLEER, Cullen	g	0-2	0-2	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	20
10	RAU, Brett		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
11	PORTER, Jontay		1-8	0-3	2-2	4	3	7	5	4	0	1	0	0	28
14	NIKKO, Reed		2-3	0-0	1-2	2	1	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	18
15	GEIST, Jordan		2-8	1-5	1-3	1	0	1	4	6	3	1	0	1	28
	Team					0	2	2							
	Totals		21-58	10-31	14-22	14	18	32	24	66	7	12	1	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-27 40.7% 2nd half: 10-31 32.3% Game: 21-58 36.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-18 33.3% 2nd half: 4-13 30.8% Game: 10-31 32.3%
FT % 1st Half: 4-8 50.0% 2nd half: 10-14 71.4% Game: 14-22 63.6%

Deadball Rebounds: 2

Kentucky 87 • 20-9, 9-7

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
05	Knox, Kevin	f	6-13	1-3	8-8	1	0	1	4	21	0	2	1	1	24
32	Gabriel, Wenyen	f	1-4	1-3	0-0	3	2	5	2	3	0	2	1	0	15
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	4-10	3-3	0-0	0	2	2	2	11	2	0	1	1	25
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	4-6	2-3	4-4	0	5	5	2	14	8	1	0	1	36
00	Green, Quade		5-6	2-2	0-0	0	2	2	2	12	3	2	0	1	29
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	5
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		4-4	0-0	3-7	3	12	15	1	11	2	1	3	0	27
10	David, Jonny		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
12	Calipari, Brad		1-2	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1
25	Washington, PJ		3-6	0-0	6-9	2	3	5	3	12	2	1	0	0	29
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		28-51	10-16	21-28	9	27	36	19	87	17	9	6	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-25 56.0% 2nd half: 14-26 53.8% Game: 28-51 54.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 8-10 80.0% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 10-16 62.5%
FT % 1st Half: 8-11 72.7% 2nd half: 13-17 76.5% Game: 21-28 75.0%

Deadball Rebounds: 3,2

Officials: Anthony Jordan, Terry Oglesby, Vladimir Voyard-Tadal
Technical fouls: RV/RV Missouri-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 23038

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
RV/RV Missouri	32	34	**66**
Kentucky	44	43	**87**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
MU-M	18	11	15	0	15
UK	24	23	7	10	38

Score tied - 5 times.
Lead changed - 3 times.

Last FG - MU-M 2nd-00:54, UK 2nd-00:36.
Largest lead - MU-M by 3 1st-18:18, UK by 24 2nd-02:55.
MU-M led for 03:53. UK led for 30:39. Game was tied for 05:28.

GAME 30
23/25 KENTUCKY 96, OLE MISS 78

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Ole Miss vs Kentucky
02/28/18 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Ole Miss 78 • 12-18, 5-12

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
02	Hymon, Marcanvis	f	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
12	Stevens, Bruce	f	5-11	1-1	2-2	3	10	13	4	13	1	2	0	1	24
03	Davis, Terence	g	10-23	4-12	2-5	1	3	4	4	26	3	1	0	1	36
04	Tyree, Breein	g	5-11	0-2	3-6	0	1	1	1	13	7	3	0	1	29
05	Crawford, Markel	g	2-5	1-4	0-0	0	3	3	2	5	2	3	0	2	39
00	Shuler, Devontae		3-10	2-8	0-0	0	1	1	3	8	2	0	0	0	28
01	Burnett, Deandre		1-5	1-3	0-0	0	1	1	0	3	3	1	0	0	12
13	Olejniczak, Dominik		4-8	0-0	2-2	4	0	4	2	10	1	2	3	0	22
50	Furmanavicius,Justas		0-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	8
	Team					3	3	6							
	Totals		30-74	9-30	9-15	13	22	35	22	78	19	12	3	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-42 40.5% 2nd half: 13-32 40.6% Game: 30-74 40.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-20 25.0% 2nd half: 4-10 40.0% Game: 9-30 30.0%
FT % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 9-15 60.0%

Deadball Rebounds: 6,1

Kentucky 96 • 21-9, 10-7

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	7
05	Knox, Kevin	f	7-17	2-5	6-8	0	4	4	2	22	1	3	0	1	31
32	Gabriel, Wenyen	f	5-8	2-4	3-3	2	4	6	4	15	2	0	0	1	23
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	3-6	2-3	1-2	1	0	1	2	9	0	0	0	1	20
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	3-8	0-0	11-13	1	6	7	1	17	10	4	3	1	37
00	Green, Quade		7-12	2-6	2-2	0	1	1	2	18	4	1	0	2	30
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	7
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		2-4	0-0	1-3	3	8	11	2	5	2	1	0	1	24
12	Calipari, Brad		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
25	Washington, PJ		4-6	0-0	2-4	2	3	5	2	10	0	1	1	1	20
	Team					2	0	2							
	Totals		31-62	8-18	26-35	12	31	43	17	96	19	12	5	9	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-35 45.7% 2nd half: 15-27 55.6% Game: 31-62 50.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-8 25.0% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 8-18 44.4%
FT % 1st Half: 16-19 84.2% 2nd half: 10-16 62.5% Game: 26-35 74.3%

Deadball Rebounds: 5,5

Officials: Pat Adams, Mike Eades, Karl Hess
Technical fouls: Ole Miss-Furmanavicius,Justas; Hymon, Marcanvis 2.
Kentucky-Gabriel, Wenyen; Richards, Nick.
Attendance: 22106

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Ole Miss	42	36	**78**
Kentucky	50	46	**96**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
OM	30	18	24	6	21
UK	40	12	14	14	33

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 7 times.

Last FG - OM 2nd-00:11, UK 2nd-01:26.
Largest lead - OM by 2 1st-18:51, UK by 20 2nd-00:47.
OM led for 01:12. UK led for 36:56. Game was tied for 01:52.

GAME 31
RV/RV FLORIDA 80, #23/25 KENTUCKY 67

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs RV/RV Florida
3/3/18 12 p.m. at Exactech Arena - Gainesville, Fla.

Kentucky 67 • 21-10, 10-8 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	1-2	0-0	0-2	1	3	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	19
05	Knox, Kevin	f	3-10	1-5	5-7	1	3	4	2	12	1	1	0	0	28
32	Gabriel, Wenyen	f	1-4	1-3	0-0	1	3	4	0	3	0	2	0	0	22
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	0-7	0-3	1-2	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	0	1	23
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	7-14	1-2	2-4	0	2	2	1	17	4	5	1	0	37
00	Green, Quade		4-7	3-3	0-0	0	1	1	3	11	0	1	0	0	27
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred		2-4	0-0	2-2	4	2	6	4	6	0	1	1	1	17
25	Washington, PJ		5-9	0-0	3-5	3	4	7	4	13	0	2	0	1	23
	Team					3	1	4							
	Totals		24-58	6-16	13-22	16	20	36	17	67	6	13	2	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-29 44.8% 2nd half: 11-29 37.9% Game: 24-58 41.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-7 57.1% 2nd half: 2-9 22.2% Game: 6-16 37.5%
FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 10-18 55.6% Game: 13-22 59.1%

Deadball Rebounds: 5

RV/RV Florida 80 • 20-11, 11-7 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
13	Hayes, Kevarrius	c	1-2	0-0	0-2	2	4	6	4	2	0	1	1	0	22
03	Hudson, Jalen	g	8-15	3-6	3-3	0	1	1	3	22	1	0	0	2	33
04	Koulechov, Egor	g	5-7	2-3	4-6	0	3	3	3	16	0	0	0	0	23
05	Allen, KeVaughn	g	4-9	3-7	0-0	1	6	7	3	11	7	2	0	3	36
11	Chiozza, Chris	g	2-7	0-3	5-6	0	3	3	0	9	4	3	0	1	34
00	Okauru, Mike		2-4	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	2	4	1	1	0	1	10
12	Gak, Gorjok		2-3	0-0	2-3	3	1	4	1	6	0	1	0	1	16
25	Stone, Keith		4-10	2-4	0-0	5	1	6	4	10	2	2	2	0	26
	Team					1	2	3							
	Totals		28-57	10-24	14-20	12	22	34	20	80	15	10	3	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-32 56.3% 2nd half: 10-25 40.0% Game: 28-57 49.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-13 46.2% 2nd half: 4-11 36.4% Game: 10-24 41.7%
FT % 1st Half: 6-8 75.0% 2nd half: 8-12 66.7% Game: 14-20 70.0%

Deadball Rebounds: 3

Officials: Doug Shows, Don Daily, Byron Jarrett
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. RV/RV Florida-None.
Attendance: 10558

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	33	34	**67**
RV/RV Florida	48	32	**80**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	28	11	9	0	32
UF	30	16	4	6	20

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 2 times.

Last FG - UK 2nd-01:24, UF 2nd-01:35.
Largest lead - UK by 1 1st-18:00, UF by 23 2nd-16:04.
UK led for 00:57. UF led for 37:56. Game was tied for 01:07.

GAME 32
RV/RV KENTUCKY 62, GEORGIA 49

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Georgia vs Kentucky
3/9/18 2:32 PM CT at Scottrade Center, St. Louis, Missouri

Georgia 49 • 18-15; 7-11 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Yante Maten	f	2-10	0-1	5-8	1	3	4	1	9	1	0	2	1	33
20	Rayshaun Hammonds	f	3-6	1-1	0-1	2	5	7	1	7	1	1	0	0	17
34	Derek Ogbeide	f	1-3	0-0	0-0	6	5	11	3	2	1	1	2	0	25
00	William Jackson II	g	2-12	0-7	1-2	1	2	3	3	5	1	3	0	0	18
03	Juwan Parker	g	3-6	1-3	0-0	0	3	3	2	7	0	0	0	0	16
04	Tyree Crump		4-9	4-8	5-5	0	3	3	0	17	0	3	0	1	28
10	Teshaun Hightower		0-6	0-3	2-4	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	18
13	ETorrion Wilridge		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	1	1	23
32	Mike Edwards		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
33	Nicolas Claxton		0-1	0-0	0-1	2	4	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	18
	Team					1	2	3				1			
	Totals		15-53	6-23	13-21	16	26	42	13	49	5	11	6	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 8-29 27.6% 2nd half: 7-24 29.2% Game: 15-53 28.3%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-9 33.3% 2nd half: 3-14 21.4% Game: 6-23 26.1%
FT % 1st Half: 4-7 57.1% 2nd half: 9-14 64.3% Game: 13-21 61.9%

Deadball Rebounds: 3

Kentucky 62 • 22-10; 10-8 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Nick Richards	f	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	6
05	Kevin Knox	f	6-18	2-6	1-2	2	7	9	1	15	2	0	1	0	37
25	PJ Washington	f	8-12	0-0	2-4	2	5	7	2	18	1	2	0	1	35
03	Hamidou Diallo	g	3-5	1-1	0-0	1	1	2	1	7	0	0	0	1	21
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	7-15	0-3	1-2	2	2	4	1	15	9	1	0	2	37
00	Quade Green		0-5	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	26
01	Sacha Killeya-Jones		0-2	0-0	1-2	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	11
32	Wenyen Gabriel		2-4	2-4	0-0	2	4	6	4	6	1	1	0	0	27
	Team					2	6	8							
	Totals		26-61	5-17	5-10	12	27	39	16	62	14	5	1	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-30 43.3% 2nd half: 13-31 41.9% Game: 26-61 42.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-10 20.0% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 5-17 29.4%
FT % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 3-5 60.0% Game: 5-10 50.0%

Deadball Rebounds: 2

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Tony Greene, Wil Howard
Technical fouls: Georgia-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 16364

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Georgia	23	26	**49**
Kentucky	30	32	**62**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UG	12	7	9	0	19
UK	38	14	2	6	7

Score tied - 4 times.
Lead changed - 3 times.

Last FG - UG 2nd-01:31, UK 2nd-00:21.
Largest lead - UG by 2 1st-19:20, UK by 17 2nd-15:25.
UG led for 00:34. UK led for 36:40. Game was tied for 02:46.

GAME 33
RV/RV KENTUCKY 86, ALABAMA 63

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Alabama vs Kentucky
3/10/18 12:02 PM CT at Scottrade Center, St. Louis, Missouri

Alabama 63 • 19-15; 8-10 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
03	Alex Reese	f	2-5	1-2	0-0	1	3	4	2	5	0	2	0	0	19
30	Galin Smith	f	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	16
02	Collin Sexton	g	6-14	1-3	4-5	3	21	24	3	17	3	3	0	0	36
10	Herbert Jones	g	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	13
12	Dazon Ingram	g	2-10	0-3	0-1	1	4	5	2	4	0	0	0	0	30
04	Daniel Giddens		2-3	0-0	1-2	5	2	7	3	5	1	1	3	1	22
05	Avery Johnson Jr		3-6	1-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	7	1	0	0	1	17
23	John Petty		6-11	5-9	1-1	0	1	1	2	18	0	0	0	1	23
24	Lawson Schaffer		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25	Braxton Key		1-6	0-4	1-2	3	2	5	3	3	1	2	0	1	23
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		22-58	8-24	11-15	13	18	31	22	63	6	11	3	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 7-23 30.4% 2nd half: 15-35 42.9% Game: 22-58 37.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-8 25.0% 2nd half: 6-16 37.5% Game: 8-24 33.3%
FT % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 8-10 80.0% Game: 11-15 73.3%

Deadball Rebounds: 1

Kentucky 86 • 23-10; 10-8 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	8
05	Knox, Kevin	f	4-6	1-2	2-2	0	2	2	4	11	2	4	0	2	25
25	Washington, PJ	f	4-7	1-1	5-8	0	8	8	1	14	1	0	0	0	37
03	Diallo, Hamidou	g	3-6	1-2	2-4	0	1	1	5	9	1	1	0	0	19
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	g	4-7	2-4	9-12	0	4	4	3	19	8	1	0	1	38
00	Green, Quade		1-4	0-2	0-0	1	0	1	1	2	8	0	0	0	31
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha		3-3	0-0	0-0	0	5	5	2	6	0	0	3	2	16
12	Calipari, Brad		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
32	Gabriel, Wenyen		7-8	7-7	2-2	0	2	2	2	23	0	1	3	1	25
	Team					0	4	4							
	Totals		27-42	12-18	20-28	1	26	27	18	86	20	10	5	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-23 47.8% 2nd half: 16-19 84.2% Game: 27-42 64.3%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-9 44.4% 2nd half: 8-9 88.9% Game: 12-18 66.7%
FT % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 17-21 81.0% Game: 20-28 71.4%

Deadball Rebounds: 4

Officials: Doug Shows, Tony Greene, Todd Austin
Technical fouls: Alabama-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 18729

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Alabama	19	44	**63**
Kentucky	29	57	**86**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UA	26	8	13	2	33
UK	18	14	0	2	31

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 8 times.

Last FG - UA 2nd-00:39, UK 2nd-00:22.
Largest lead - UA by 2 1st-13:12, UK by 23 2nd-00:22.
UA led for 02:08. UK led for 35:21. Game was tied for 02:14.

GAME 34
RV/RV KENTUCKY 77, #13/12 TENNESSEE 72

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs 13/12 Tennessee
**3/11/18 12:02 PM CT at Scottrade Center, St. Louis, Miss

KENTUCKY

2017-18 SEASON STATISTICS

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 12, 2018)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	24-10	16-2	4-6	4-2
CONFERENCE	10-8	7-2	3-6	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	14-2	9-0	1-0	4-2

					Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds											
##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
05	Knox, Kevin	34-34	1097	32.3	179-404	.443	56-158	.354	116-151	.768	33	150	183	5.4	73	1	48	76	9	30	530	15.6
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	34-21	1133	33.3	166-342	.485	21-53	.396	118-146	.808	28	106	134	3.9	55	0	171	90	18	54	471	13.9
25	Washington, PJ	34-27	921	27.1	121-238	.508	5-21	.238	113-181	.624	58	128	186	5.5	88	3	55	65	30	23	360	10.6
03	Diallo, Hamidou	34-34	844	24.8	121-293	.413	25-74	.338	72-117	.615	30	90	120	3.5	89	4	44	48	8	26	339	10.0
00	Green, Quade	31-13	805	26.0	110-240	.458	38-100	.380	41-50	.820	13	44	57	1.8	49	0	85	49	0	11	299	9.6
32	Gabriel, Wenyen	34-7	769	22.6	81-180	.450	39-98	.398	30-50	.600	58	120	178	5.2	104	4	21	40	37	28	231	6.8
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred	14-0	238	17.0	29-68	.426	0-1	.000	24-38	.632	46	64	110	7.9	37	1	14	15	11	6	82	5.9
04	Richards, Nick	34-34	522	15.4	67-109	.615	0-0	.000	50-69	.725	53	105	158	4.6	72	1	9	25	33	3	184	5.4
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha	31-0	418	13.5	42-70	.600	0-1	.000	18-34	.529	41	51	92	3.0	66	0	8	21	19	7	102	3.3
14	Wynyard, Tai	8-0	43	5.4	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	6	8	14	1.8	8	0	0	3	1	3	8	1.0
12	Calipari, Brad	11-0	28	2.5	1-7	.143	1-7	.143	0-0	.000	0	2	2	0.2	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0.3
30	Pulliam, Dillon	4-0	3	0.8	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
10	David, Jonny	5-0	4	0.8	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										45	33	78					7				
	Total.....	34	6825		920-1958	.470	185-513	.361	584-838	.697	411	901	1312	38.6	642	14	456	443	166	191	2609	76.7
	Opponents.....	34	6825		836-2060	.406	260-869	.299	458-664	.690	410	742	1152	33.9	688	-	440	407	129	195	2390	70.3

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	2609	2390
Points per game	76.7	70.3
Scoring margin	+6.4	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	920-1958	836-2060
Field goal pct	.470	.406
3 POINT FG-ATT	185-513	260-869
3-point FG pct	.361	.299
3-pt FG made per game	5.4	7.6
FREE THROWS-ATT	584-838	458-664
Free throw pct	.697	.690
F-Throws made per game	17.2	13.5
REBOUNDS	1312	1152
Rebounds per game	38.6	33.9
Rebounding margin	+4.7	-
ASSISTS	456	440
Assists per game	13.4	12.9
TURNOVERS	443	407
Turnovers per game	13.0	12.0
Turnover margin	-1.1	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.0	1.1
STEALS	191	195
Steals per game	5.6	5.7
BLOCKS	166	129
Blocks per game	4.9	3.8
ATTENDANCE	393743	239412
Home games-Avg/Game	18-21875	10-14510
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	6-15718

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Totals
Kentucky	1229	1368	12	2609
Opponents	1130	1250	10	2390

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
	11/10/17	UTAH VALLEY	W	73-63	19807
	11/12/17	VERMONT	W	73-69	20174
1	11/14/17	vs #4/3 Kansas	L	61-65	21684
2	11/17/17	ETSU	W	78-61	20168
2	11/20/17	TROY	W	70-62	19548
2	11/22/17	FORT WAYNE	W	86-67	20645
2	11/26/17	UIC	W	107-73	20212
	12/2/17	HARVARD	W	79-70	22922
3	12/9/17	vs Monmouth	W	93-76	10438
	12/16/17	RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	W	93-86	22690
4	12/23/17	vs UCLA	L	75-83	8119
	12/29/17	RV/RV LOUISVILLE	W	90-61	24228
*	12/31/17	GEORGIA	W	66-61	22862
*	1/3/18	at LSU	W	74-71	11952
*	1/6/18	at #23/22 Tennessee	L	65-76	21678
*	1/9/18	RV/RV TEXAS A&M	W	74-73	22643
*	1/13/18	at Vanderbilt	W	74-67	13389
*	1/16/18	at South Carolina	L	68-76	16210
*	1/20/18	FLORIDA	L	64-66	24394
*	1/23/18	MISSISSIPPI STATE	W	78-65	20609
5	1/27/18	at #7/7 West Virginia	W	83-76	15835
*	1/30/18	VANDERBILT	Wot	83-81	21143
*	2/3/18	at Mizzou	L	60-69	15061
*	2/6/18	#15/14 TENNESSEE	L	59-61	23332
*	02/10/18	at Texas A&M	L	74-85	13263
*	02/14/18	at #10/11 Auburn	L	66-76	9121
*	2/17/18	RV/RV ALABAMA	W	81-71	23220
*	02/20/18	at RV/RV Arkansas	W	87-72	18038
*	02/24/18	RV/NR MIZZOU	W	87-66	23038
*	02/28/18	OLE MISS	W	96-78	22108
*	3/3/18	at RV/RV Florida	L	67-80	10558
6	3/9/18	vs Georgia	W	62-49	16364
6	3/10/18	vs Alabama	W	86-63	18729
6	3/11/18	vs #13/12 Tennessee	W	77-72	18973

* = Conference game
1 = Champions Classic | United Center (Chicago)
2 = Adolph Rupp Classic | Rupp Arena (Lexington, Ky.)
3 = Citi Hoops Classic | Madison Square Garden (New York)
4 = CBS Sports Classic | Smoothie King Center (New Orleans)
5 = Big 12/SEC Challenge | WVU Coliseum (Morgantown, W.Va.)
6 = SEC Tournament | Scottrade Center (St. Louis)

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 11, 2018)
Conference games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	10-8	7-2	3-6	0-0
CONFERENCE	10-8	7-2	3-6	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

					Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds											
##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	18-15	650	36.1	95-206	.461	10-25	.400	72-89	.809	16	56	72	4.0	27	0	96	53	14	22	272	15.1
05	Knox, Kevin	18-18	566	31.4	88-205	.429	27-79	.342	68-85	.800	15	74	89	4.9	39	0	19	33	2	15	271	15.1
25	Washington, PJ	18-11	496	27.6	66-134	.493	2-13	.154	64-103	.621	32	66	98	5.4	50	1	24	31	15	19	198	11.0
00	Green, Quade	15-3	410	27.3	56-127	.441	22-57	.386	20-27	.741	7	23	30	2.0	27	0	26	20	0	7	154	10.3
03	Diallo, Hamidou	18-18	413	22.9	42-121	.347	10-36	.278	32-55	.582	14	42	56	3.1	46	3	14	24	6	10	126	7.0
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred	13-0	227	17.5	29-63	.460	0-1	.000	23-36	.639	39	60	99	7.6	36	1	12	14	11	6	81	6.2
32	Gabriel, Wenyen	18-7	398	22.1	39-95	.411	17-54	.315	9-19	.474	25	61	86	4.8	62	3	7	25	11	13	104	5.8
04	Richards, Nick	18-18	257	14.3	26-43	.605	0-0	.000	22-31	.710	20	47	67	3.7	36	1	2	10	12	2	74	4.1
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha	16-0	190	11.9	16-24	.667	0-1	.000	8-16	.500	18	22	40	2.5	33	0	4	12	5	2	40	2.5
12	Calipari, Brad	5-0	11	2.2	1-4	.250	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0.6
14	Wynyard, Tai	1-0	7	7.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.0
10	David, Jonny	1-0	0	0.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										29	16	45					3				
	Total.....	18	3625		458-1023	.448	89-270	.330	318-461	.690	216	468	684	38.0	357	9	204	226	76	97	1323	73.5
	Opponents.....	18	3625		447-1064	.420	127-449	.283	273-395	.691	201	410	611	33.9	372	-	242	204	73	97	1294	71.9

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	1323	1294
Points per game	73.5	71.9
Scoring margin	+1.6	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	458-1023	447-1064
Field goal pct	.448	.420
3 POINT FG-ATT	89-270	127-449
3-point FG pct	.330	.283
3-pt FG made per game	4.9	7.1
FREE THROWS-ATT	318-461	273-395
Free throw pct	.690	.691
F-Throws made per game	17.7	15.2
REBOUNDS	684	611
Rebounds per game	38.0	33.9
Rebounding margin	+4.1	-
ASSISTS	204	242
Assists per game	11.3	13.4
TURNOVERS	226	204
Turnovers per game	12.6	11.3
Turnover margin	-1.2	-
Assist/turnover ratio	0.9	1.2
STEALS	97	97
Steals per game	5.4	5.4
BLOCKS	76	73
Blocks per game	4.2	4.1
ATTENDANCE	203349	129270
Home games-Avg/Game	9-22594	9-14363
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	0-0

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Totals
Kentucky	616	695	12	1323
Opponents	609	675	10	1294

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
*	12/31/17	GEORGIA	W	66-61	22862
*	1/3/18	at LSU	W	74-71	11952
*	1/6/18	at #23/22 Tennessee	L	65-76	21678
*	1/9/18	RV/RV TEXAS A&M	W	74-73	22643
*	1/13/18	at Vanderbilt	W	74-67	13389
*	1/16/18	at South Carolina	L	68-76	16210
*	1/20/18	FLORIDA	L	64-66	24394
*	1/23/18	MISSISSIPPI STATE	W	78-65	20609
*	1/30/18	VANDERBILT	Wot	83-81	21143
*	2/3/18	at Mizzou	L	60-69	15061
*	2/6/18	#15/14 TENNESSEE	L	59-61	23332
*	02/10/18	at Texas A&M	L	74-85	13263
*	02/14/18	at #10/11 Auburn	L	66-76	9121
*	2/17/18	RV/RV ALABAMA	W	81-71	23220
*	02/20/18	at RV/RV Arkansas	W	87-72	18038
*	02/24/18	RV/NR MIZZOU	W	87-66	23038
*	02/28/18	OLE MISS	W	96-78	22108
*	3/3/18	at RV/RV Florida	L	67-80	10558

* = Conference game
1 = Champions Classic | United Center (Chicago)
2 = Adolph Rupp Classic | Rupp Arena (Lexington, Ky.)
3 = Citi Hoops Classic | Madison Square Garden (New York)
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2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 11, 2018)
SEC Tournament

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	3-0	0-0	0-0	3-0
CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	3-0	0-0	0-0	3-0

					Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds											
##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	3-3	112	37.3	21-38	.553	4-10	.400	17-21	.810	3	12	15	5.0	6	0	20	5	0	5	63	21.0
05	Knox, Kevin	3-3	96	32.0	17-41	.415	6-15	.400	4-6	.667	4	14	18	6.0	6	0	5	8	2	2	44	14.7
32	Gabriel, Wenyen	3-0	80	26.7	13-18	.722	11-15	.733	4-4	1.000	5	9	14	4.7	11	1	1	2	5	4	41	13.7
25	Washington, PJ	3-3	95	31.7	12-21	.571	1-1	1.000	12-19	.632	2	18	20	6.7	7	0	2	3	0	2	37	12.3
03	Diallo, Hamidou	3-3	63	21.0	6-13	.462	2-4	.500	2-4	.500	2	2	4	1.3	8	1	4	1	0	1	16	5.3
00	Green, Quade	3-0	85	28.3	4-14	.286	0-6	.000	4-4	1.000	1	0	1	0.3	4	0	11	1	0	0	12	4.0
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha	3-0	47	15.7	4-7	.571	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	7	9	3.0	8	0	0	3	4	0	9	3.0
04	Richards, Nick	3-3	21	7.0	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	3	2	5	1.7	3	0	0	2	1	0	3	1.0
12	Calipari, Brad	1-0	1	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										2	10	12									
	Total.....	3	600		78-153	.510	24-51	.471	45-62	.726	24	74	98	32.7	53	2	43	25	12	14	225	75.0
	Opponents.....	3	600		60-173	.347	24-74	.324	40-56	.714	47	60	107	35.7	56	-	25	32	12	11	184	61.3

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	225	184
Points per game	75.0	61.3
Scoring margin	+13.7	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	78-153	60-173
Field goal pct	.510	.347
3 POINT FG-ATT	24-51	24-74
3-point FG pct	.471	.324
3-pt FG made per game	8.0	8.0
FREE THROWS-ATT	45-62	40-56
Free throw pct	.726	.714
F-Throws made per game	15.0	13.3
REBOUNDS	98	107
Rebounds per game	32.7	35.7
Rebounding margin	-3.0	-
ASSISTS	43	25
Assists per game	14.3	8.3
TURNOVERS	25	32
Turnovers per game	8.3	10.7
Turnover margin	+2.3	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.7	0.8
STEALS	14	11
Steals per game	4.7	3.7
BLOCKS	12	12
Blocks per game	4.0	4.0
ATTENDANCE	0	54066
Home games-Avg/Game	0-0	0-0
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	3-18022

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Totals
Kentucky	95	130	225
Opponents	73	111	184

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
6	3/9/18	vs Georgia	W	62-49	16364
6	3/10/18	vs Alabama	W	86-63	18729
6	3/11/18	vs #13/12 Tennessee	W	77-72	18973

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2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 11, 2018)
Last five games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	4-1	1-0	0-1	3-0
CONFERENCE	1-1	1-0	0-1	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	3-0	0-0	0-0	3-0

					Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds											
##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
22	Gilgeous-Alexander	5-5	186	37.2	31-60	.517	5-12	.417	30-38	.789	4	20	24	4.8	8	0	34	14	4	6	97	19.4
05	Knox, Kevin	5-5	155	31.0	27-68	.397	9-25	.360	15-21	.714	5	21	26	5.2	10	0	6	12	2	4	78	15.6
25	Washington, PJ	5-3	138	27.6	21-36	.583	1-1	1.000	17-28	.607	7	25	32	6.4	13	0	2	6	1	4	60	12.0
32	Gabriel, Wenyen	5-2	125	25.0	19-30	.633	14-22	.636	7-7	1.000	8	16	24	4.8	15	1	3	4	5	5	59	11.8
00	Green, Quade	5-0	142	28.4	15-33	.455	5-15	.333	6-6	1.000	1	2	3	0.6	9	0	15	3	0	2	41	8.2
02	Vanderbilt, Jarred	2-0	41	20.5	4-8	.500	0-0	.000	3-5	.600	7	10	17	8.5	6	0	2	2	1	2	11	5.5
03	Diallo, Hamidou	5-5	106	21.2	9-26	.346	4-10	.400	4-8	.500	6	3	9	1.8	11	1	5	2	0	3	26	5.2
01	Killeya-Jones, Sacha	5-0	58	11.6	5-8	.625	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	9	11	2.2	8	0	0	4	5	0	11	2.2
04	Richards, Nick	5-5	47	9.4	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	1-4	.250	5	8	13	2.6	7	0	1	2	1	1	5	1.0
12	Calipari, Brad	2-0	2	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										7	11	18									
	Total.....	5	1000		133-273	.487	38-85	.447	84-119	.706	52	125	177	35.4	87	2	68	50	19	27	388	77.6
	Opponents.....	5	1000		118-304	.388	43-128	.336	63-91	.692	72	104	176	35.2	98	-	59	54	18	25	342	68.4

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	388	342
Points per game	77.6	68.4
Scoring margin	+9.2	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	133-273	118-304
Field goal pct	.487	.388
3 POINT FG-ATT	38-85	43-128
3-point FG pct	.447	.336
3-pt FG made per game	7.6	8.6
FREE THROWS-ATT	84-119	63-91
Free throw pct	.706	.692
F-Throws made per game	16.8	12.6
REBOUNDS	177	176
Rebounds per game	35.4	35.2
Rebounding margin	+0.2	-
ASSISTS	68	59
Assists per game	13.6	11.8
TURNOVERS	50	54
Turnovers per game	10.0	10.8
Turnover margin	+0.8	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.4	1.1
STEALS	27	25
Steals per game	5.4	5.0
BLOCKS	19	18
Blocks per game	3.8	3.6
ATTENDANCE	22108	64624
Home games-Avg/Game	1-22108	1-10558
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	3-18022

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Totals
Kentucky	178	210	388
Opponents	163	179	342

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
*	02/28/18	OLE MISS	W	96-78	22108
*	3/3/18	at RV/RV Florida	L	67-80	10558
6	3/9/18	vs Georgia	W	62-49	16364
6	3/10/18	vs Alabama	W	86-63	18729
6	3/11/18	vs #13/12 Tennessee	W	77-72	18973

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2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Category Leaders (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

Points	G	Pts	Pts/G
Knox, Kevin	34	530	15.6
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	471	13.9
Washington, PJ	34	360	10.6
Diallo, Hamidou	34	339	10.0
Green, Quade	31	299	9.6
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	231	6.8
Richards, Nick	34	184	5.4
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	31	102	3.3
Vanderbilt, Jarred	14	82	5.9
Wynyard, Tai	8	8	1.0
Calipari, Brad	11	3	0.3

Scoring Average	G	Pts	Avg/G
Knox, Kevin	34	530	15.6
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	471	13.9
Washington, PJ	34	360	10.6
Diallo, Hamidou	34	339	10.0
Green, Quade	31	299	9.6
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	231	6.8
Vanderbilt, Jarred	14	82	5.9
Richards, Nick	34	184	5.4
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	31	102	3.3
Wynyard, Tai	8	8	1.0
Calipari, Brad	11	3	0.3
Pulliam, Dillon	4	0	0.0
David, Jonny	5	0	0.0

FG Percentage	FG	Att	Pct
Richards, Nick	67	109	.615
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	42	70	.600
Washington, PJ	121	238	.508
Gilgeous-Alexander	166	342	.485
Green, Quade	110	240	.458
Gabriel, Wenyen	81	180	.450
Knox, Kevin	179	404	.443
Wynyard, Tai	3	7	.429
Vanderbilt, Jarred	29	68	.426
Diallo, Hamidou	121	293	.413
Calipari, Brad	1	7	.143

Field Goal Attempts	G	Att	Att/G
Knox, Kevin	34	404	11.9
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	342	10.1
Diallo, Hamidou	34	293	8.6
Green, Quade	31	240	7.7
Washington, PJ	34	238	7.0

Field Goals Made	G	Made	Made/G
Knox, Kevin	34	179	5.3
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	166	4.9
Diallo, Hamidou	34	121	3.6
Washington, PJ	34	121	3.6
Green, Quade	31	110	3.5

3-Point Percentage	3FG	Att	Pct
Gabriel, Wenyen	39	98	.398
Gilgeous-Alexander	21	53	.396
Green, Quade	38	100	.380
Knox, Kevin	56	158	.354
Diallo, Hamidou	25	74	.338
Washington, PJ	5	21	.238
Calipari, Brad	1	7	.143
Vanderbilt, Jarred	0	1	.000
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	0	1	.000

3-Point FG Attempts	G	Att	Att/G
Knox, Kevin	34	158	4.6
Green, Quade	31	100	3.2
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	98	2.9
Diallo, Hamidou	34	74	2.2
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	53	1.6

3-Point FG Made	G	Made	Made/G
Knox, Kevin	34	56	1.6
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	39	1.1
Green, Quade	31	38	1.2
Diallo, Hamidou	34	25	0.7
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	21	0.6

Free Throw Percent	FG	Att	Pct
Wynyard, Tai	2	2	1.000
Green, Quade	41	50	.820
Gilgeous-Alexander	118	146	.808
Knox, Kevin	116	151	.768
Richards, Nick	50	69	.725
Vanderbilt, Jarred	24	38	.632
Washington, PJ	113	181	.624
Diallo, Hamidou	72	117	.615
Gabriel, Wenyen	30	50	.600
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	18	34	.529

Free Throw Attempts	G	Att	Att/G
Washington, PJ	34	181	5.3
Knox, Kevin	34	151	4.4
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	146	4.3
Diallo, Hamidou	34	117	3.4
Richards, Nick	34	69	2.0

Free Throws Made	G	Made	Made/G
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	118	3.5
Knox, Kevin	34	116	3.4
Washington, PJ	34	113	3.3
Diallo, Hamidou	34	72	2.1
Richards, Nick	34	50	1.5

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Category Leaders (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

Rebounds	G	Reb	Reb/G
Washington, PJ	34	186	5.5
Knox, Kevin	34	183	5.4
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	178	5.2
Richards, Nick	34	158	4.6
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	134	3.9

Rebound Average	G	Reb	Avg/G
Vanderbilt, Jarred	14	110	7.9
Washington, PJ	34	186	5.5
Knox, Kevin	34	183	5.4
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	178	5.2
Richards, Nick	34	158	4.6

Offensive Rebounds	G	No.	Avg/G
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	58	1.7
Washington, PJ	34	58	1.7
Richards, Nick	34	53	1.6
Vanderbilt, Jarred	14	46	3.3
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	31	41	1.3

Defensive Rebounds	G	No.	Avg/G
Knox, Kevin	34	150	4.4
Washington, PJ	34	128	3.8
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	120	3.5
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	106	3.1
Richards, Nick	34	105	3.1

Fouls	G	No.	Per/G
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	104	3.1
Diallo, Hamidou	34	89	2.6
Washington, PJ	34	88	2.6
Knox, Kevin	34	73	2.1
Richards, Nick	34	72	2.1

Foulouts	G	No.
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	4
Diallo, Hamidou	34	4
Washington, PJ	34	3
Vanderbilt, Jarred	14	1
Knox, Kevin	34	1
Richards, Nick	34	1

Assists	G	No.	Ast/G
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	171	5.0
Green, Quade	31	85	2.7
Washington, PJ	34	55	1.6
Knox, Kevin	34	48	1.4
Diallo, Hamidou	34	44	1.3

Steals	G	No.	Stl/G
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	54	1.6
Knox, Kevin	34	30	0.9
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	28	0.8
Diallo, Hamidou	34	26	0.8
Washington, PJ	34	23	0.7

Blocked Shots	G	No.	Blk/G
Gabriel, Wenyen	34	37	1.1
Richards, Nick	34	33	1.0
Washington, PJ	34	30	0.9
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	31	19	0.6
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	18	0.5

Minutes	G	No.	Min/G
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	1133	33.3
Knox, Kevin	34	1097	32.3
Washington, PJ	34	921	27.1
Diallo, Hamidou	34	844	24.8
Green, Quade	31	805	26.0

Turnovers	G	No.	TO/G
Gilgeous-Alexander	34	90	2.6
Knox, Kevin	34	76	2.2
Washington, PJ	34	65	1.9
Green, Quade	31	49	1.6
Diallo, Hamidou	34	48	1.4

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Overall/Conference Statistics (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

	Overall Statistics										Conference Statistics									
SUMMARY	gp-gs	min/g	fg%	3fg%	ft%	r/g	a/g	stl	blk	pts/g	gp-gs	min/g	fg%	3fg%	ft%	r/g	a/g	stl	blk	pts/g
Knox, Kevin	34-34	32.3	.443	.354	.768	5.4	1.4	30	9	15.6	18-18	31.4	.429	.342	.800	4.9	1.1	15	2	15.1
Gilgeous-Alexander	34-21	33.3	.485	.396	.808	3.9	5.0	54	18	13.9	18-15	36.1	.461	.400	.809	4.0	5.3	22	14	15.1
Washington, PJ	34-27	27.1	.508	.238	.624	5.5	1.6	23	30	10.6	18-11	27.6	.493	.154	.621	5.4	1.3	19	15	11.0
Diallo, Hamidou	34-34	24.8	.413	.338	.615	3.5	1.3	26	8	10.0	18-18	22.9	.347	.278	.582	3.1	0.8	10	6	7.0
Green, Quade	31-13	26.0	.458	.380	.820	1.8	2.7	11	0	9.6	15-3	27.3	.441	.386	.741	2.0	1.7	7	0	10.3
Gabriel, Wenyen	34-7	22.6	.450	.398	.600	5.2	0.6	28	37	6.8	18-7	22.1	.411	.315	.474	4.8	0.4	13	11	5.8
Vanderbilt, Jarred	14-0	17.0	.426	.000	.632	7.9	1.0	6	11	5.9	13-0	17.5	.460	.000	.639	7.6	0.9	6	11	6.2
Richards, Nick	34-34	15.4	.615	.000	.725	4.6	0.3	3	33	5.4	18-18	14.3	.605	.000	.710	3.7	0.1	2	12	4.1
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	31-0	13.5	.600	.000	.529	3.0	0.3	7	19	3.3	16-0	11.9	.667	.000	.500	2.5	0.3	2	5	2.5
Wynyard, Tai	8-0	5.4	.429	.000	1.000	1.8	0.0	3	1	1.0	1-0	7.0	.000	.000	.000	1.0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Calipari, Brad	11-0	2.5	.143	.143	.000	0.2	0.1	0	0	0.3	5-0	2.2	.250	.250	.000	0.2	0.0	0	0	0.6
Pulliam, Dillon	4-0	0.8	.000	.000	.000	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0										
David, Jonny	5-0	0.8	.000	.000	.000	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	1-0	0.0	.000	.000	.000	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Totals	34		.470	.361	.697	38.6	13.4	191	166	76.7	18		.448	.330	.690	38.0	11.3	97	76	73.5
Opponent	34		.406	.299	.690	33.9	12.9	195	129	70.3	18		.420	.283	.691	33.9	13.4	97	73	71.9

	Overall Statistics								Conference Statistics							
SCORING	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	pts	pts/g	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	pts	pts/g
Knox, Kevin	179-404	.443	56-158	.354	116-151	.768	530	15.6	88-205	.429	27-79	.342	68-85	.800	271	15.1
Gilgeous-Alexander	166-342	.485	21-53	.396	118-146	.808	471	13.9	95-206	.461	10-25	.400	72-89	.809	272	15.1
Washington, PJ	121-238	.508	5-21	.238	113-181	.624	360	10.6	66-134	.493	2-13	.154	64-103	.621	198	11.0
Diallo, Hamidou	121-293	.413	25-74	.338	72-117	.615	339	10.0	42-121	.347	10-36	.278	32-55	.582	126	7.0
Green, Quade	110-240	.458	38-100	.380	41-50	.820	299	9.6	56-127	.441	22-57	.386	20-27	.741	154	10.3
Gabriel, Wenyen	81-180	.450	39-98	.398	30-50	.600	231	6.8	39-95	.411	17-54	.315	9-19	.474	104	5.8
Vanderbilt, Jarred	29-68	.426	0-1	.000	24-38	.632	82	5.9	29-63	.460	0-1	.000	23-36	.639	81	6.2
Richards, Nick	67-109	.615	0-0	.000	50-69	.725	184	5.4	26-43	.605	0-0	.000	22-31	.710	74	4.1
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	42-70	.600	0-1	.000	18-34	.529	102	3.3	16-24	.667	0-1	.000	8-16	.500	40	2.5
Wynyard, Tai	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	8	1.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0.0
Calipari, Brad	1-7	.143	1-7	.143	0-0	.000	3	0.3	1-4	.250	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	3	0.6
Pulliam, Dillon	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0.0								
David, Jonny	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0.0
Totals	920-1958	.470	185-513	.361	584-838	.697	2609	76.7	458-1023	.448	89-270	.330	318-461	.690	1323	73.5
Opponent	836-2060	.406	260-869	.299	458-664	.690	2390	70.3	447-1064	.420	127-449	.283	273-395	.691	1294	71.9

	Overall Statistics									Conference Statistics								
TOTALS	o-reb	d-reb	total	pf	fo	a	to	a/to	hi pts	o-reb	d-reb	total	pf	fo	a	to	a/to	hi pts
Knox, Kevin	33	150	183	73	1	48	76	0.6	34	15	74	89	39	0	19	33	0.6	23
Gilgeous-Alexander	28	106	134	55	0	171	90	1.9	30	16	56	72	27	0	96	53	1.8	30
Washington, PJ	58	128	186	88	3	55	65	0.8	22	32	66	98	50	1	24	31	0.8	22
Diallo, Hamidou	30	90	120	89	4	44	48	0.9	23	14	42	56	46	3	14	24	0.6	18
Green, Quade	13	44	57	49	0	85	49	1.7	21	7	23	30	27	0	26	20	1.3	18
Gabriel, Wenyen	58	120	178	104	4	21	40	0.5	23	25	61	86	62	3	7	25	0.3	15
Vanderbilt, Jarred	46	64	110	37	1	14	15	0.9	11	39	60	99	36	1	12	14	0.9	11
Richards, Nick	53	105	158	72	1	9	25	0.4	25	20	47	67	36	1	2	10	0.2	12
Killeya-Jones, Sacha	41	51	92	66	0	8	21	0.4	9	18	22	40	33	0	4	12	0.3	7
Wynyard, Tai	6	8	14	8	0	0	3	0.0	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.0	0
Calipari, Brad	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	0.5	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0.0	3
Pulliam, Dillon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0									
David, Jonny	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Totals	411	901	1312	642	14	456	443	1.0	107	216	468	684	357	9	204	226	0.9	96
Opponent	410	742	1152	688	-	440	407	1.1	86	201	410	611	372	-	242	204	1.2	85

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Team Game-by-Game (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

TEAM STATISTICS

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds									
Opponent	Date	Score		fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17	73-63	W	26-66	.394	5-15	.333	16-23	.696	18	20	38	38.0	18	17	14	8	11	73	73.0
VERMONT	11/12/17	73-69	W	26-56	.464	3-9	.333	18-23	.783	8	28	36	37.0	17	15	10	4	3	73	73.0
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17	61-65	L	23-55	.418	3-13	.231	12-18	.667	10	29	39	37.7	20	14	18	10	7	61	69.0
ETSU	11/17/17	78-61	W	33-58	.569	9-16	.563	3-15	.200	13	27	40	38.2	20	17	22	8	6	78	71.2
TROY	11/20/17	70-62	W	26-59	.441	3-9	.333	15-23	.652	15	38	53	41.2	16	13	16	2	3	70	71.0
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17	86-67	W	33-55	.600	5-11	.455	15-24	.625	12	32	44	41.7	18	17	16	3	6	86	73.5
UIC	11/26/17	107-73	W	42-63	.667	4-12	.333	19-28	.679	10	27	37	41.0	19	22	15	7	6	107	78.3
HARVARD	12/2/17	79-70	W	26-56	.464	2-14	.143	25-30	.833	8	29	37	40.5	15	13	10	9	9	79	78.4
vs Monmouth	12/9/17	93-76	W	31-58	.534	7-19	.368	24-32	.750	14	30	44	40.9	18	20	19	8	7	93	80.0
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17	93-86	W	33-68	.485	11-22	.500	16-24	.667	14	19	33	40.1	16	18	11	4	8	93	81.3
vs UCLA	12/23/17	75-83	L	29-68	.426	6-21	.286	11-16	.688	16	20	36	39.7	16	14	14	3	8	75	80.7
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17	90-61	W	30-62	.484	6-13	.462	24-30	.800	12	32	44	40.1	19	13	11	5	5	90	81.5
GEORGIA	12/31/17	66-61	W	17-54	.315	5-16	.313	27-38	.711	15	27	42	40.2	23	10	9	6	8	66	80.3
at LSU	1/3/18	74-71	W	31-61	.508	5-12	.417	7-13	.538	10	25	35	39.9	10	13	14	3	6	74	79.9
at #23/22 Tennessee	1/6/18	65-76	L	24-52	.462	7-19	.368	10-16	.625	8	22	30	39.2	23	14	16	4	7	65	78.9
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	1/9/18	74-73	W	24-43	.558	4-12	.333	22-34	.647	7	21	28	38.5	18	10	12	2	5	74	78.6
at Vanderbilt	1/13/18	74-67	W	23-43	.535	3-10	.300	25-37	.676	9	26	35	38.3	19	11	11	7	3	74	78.3
at South Carolina	1/16/18	68-76	L	22-49	.449	1-11	.091	23-36	.639	6	29	35	38.1	32	7	16	5	5	68	77.7
FLORIDA	1/20/18	64-66	L	26-65	.400	4-17	.235	8-12	.667	16	33	49	38.7	17	13	17	4	4	64	77.0
MISSISSIPPI STATE	1/23/18	78-65	W	25-58	.431	5-14	.357	23-30	.767	13	28	41	38.8	13	11	11	5	7	78	77.1
at #7/7 West Virginia	1/27/18	83-76	W	26-58	.448	8-18	.444	23-29	.793	21	28	49	39.3	20	16	16	7	1	83	77.3
VANDERBILT	1/30/18	83-81	Wot	29-64	.453	5-14	.357	20-27	.741	10	25	35	39.1	22	7	9	4	6	83	77.6
at Mizzou	2/3/18	60-69	L	21-67	.313	2-20	.100	16-23	.696	20	20	40	39.1	29	9	12	2	7	60	76.8
#15/14 TENNESSEE	2/6/18	59-61	L	19-45	.422	3-14	.214	18-25	.720	7	23	30	38.8	18	7	15	4	4	59	76.1
at Texas A&M	02/10/18	74-85	L	30-66	.455	6-15	.400	8-17	.471	13	30	43	38.9	21	15	12	5	3	74	76.0
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18	66-76	L	25-54	.463	3-14	.214	13-20	.650	7	29	36	38.8	21	9	14	4	2	66	75.6
RV/RV ALABAMA	2/17/18	81-71	W	28-64	.438	4-11	.364	21-28	.750	20	24	44	39.0	19	10	13	4	5	81	75.8
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18	87-72	W	31-67	.463	8-21	.381	17-20	.850	18	28	46	39.2	19	16	11	4	7	87	76.2
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18	87-66	W	28-51	.549	10-16	.625	21-28	.750	9	27	36	39.1	19	17	9	6	5	87	76.6
OLE MISS	02/28/18	96-78	W	31-62	.500	8-18	.444	26-35	.743	12	31	43	39.3	17	19	12	5	9	96	77.2
at RV/RV Florida	3/3/18	67-80	L	24-58	.414	6-16	.375	13-22	.591	16	20	36	39.2	17	6	13	2	4	67	76.9
vs Georgia	3/9/18	62-49	W	26-61	.426	5-17	.294	5-10	.500	12	27	39	39.2	16	14	5	1	4	62	76.4
vs Alabama	3/10/18	86-63	W	27-42	.643	12-18	.667	20-28	.714	1	26	27	38.8	18	20	10	5	4	86	76.7
vs #13/12 Tennessee	3/11/18	77-72	W	25-50	.500	7-16	.438	20-24	.833	11	21	32	38.6	19	9	10	6	6	77	76.7
Kentucky		2609		920-1958	.470	185-513	.361	584-838	.697	411	901	1312	38.6	642	456	443	166	191	2609	76.7
Opponents		2390		836-2060	.406	260-869	.299	458-664	.690	410	742	1152	33.9	688	440	407	129	195	2390	70.3

Games played: 34
Points/game: 76.7
FG Pct: 47.0
3FG Pct: 36.1
FT Pct: 69.7

Rebounds/game: 38.6
Assists/game: 13.4
Turnovers/game: 13.0
Assist/turnover ratio: 1.0
Steals/game: 5.6
Blocks/game: 4.9

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Opponent Game-by-Game (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

OPPONENT STATISTICS

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	Score		fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
UTAH VALLEY	11/10/17	73-63	W	23-56	.411	5-18	.278	12-18	.667	16	23	39	39.0	20	12	20	8	8	63	63.0
VERMONT	11/12/17	73-69	W	26-58	.448	10-29	.345	7-13	.538	6	21	27	33.0	18	14	7	1	1	69	66.0
vs #4/3 Kansas	11/14/17	61-65	L	24-68	.353	8-28	.286	9-16	.563	18	21	39	35.0	15	17	11	2	12	65	65.7
ETSU	11/17/17	78-61	W	22-68	.324	8-31	.258	9-14	.643	19	18	37	35.5	19	14	16	2	8	61	64.5
TROY	11/20/17	70-62	W	23-64	.359	4-27	.148	12-16	.750	6	24	30	34.4	20	9	6	5	5	62	64.0
FORT WAYNE	11/22/17	86-67	W	24-60	.400	12-37	.324	7-14	.500	7	14	21	32.2	20	13	10	0	8	67	64.5
UIC	11/26/17	107-73	W	26-64	.406	5-18	.278	16-24	.667	15	18	33	32.3	22	7	21	6	7	73	65.7
HARVARD	12/2/17	79-70	W	23-62	.371	12-28	.429	12-17	.706	12	24	36	32.8	21	13	15	3	4	70	66.2
vs Monmouth	12/9/17	93-76	W	26-70	.371	10-29	.345	14-18	.778	16	18	34	32.9	21	20	15	2	10	76	67.3
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	12/16/17	93-86	W	32-55	.582	10-22	.455	12-17	.706	6	24	30	32.6	22	18	19	1	3	86	69.2
vs UCLA	12/23/17	75-83	L	29-61	.475	12-30	.400	13-15	.867	11	26	37	33.0	14	14	14	2	12	83	70.5
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	12/29/17	90-61	W	24-69	.348	3-25	.120	10-13	.769	13	24	37	33.3	25	10	11	5	3	61	69.7
GEORGIA	12/31/17	66-61	W	23-58	.397	2-21	.095	13-21	.619	14	24	38	33.7	26	10	15	3	2	61	69.0
at LSU	1/3/18	74-71	W	29-65	.446	6-24	.250	7-9	.778	10	24	34	33.7	14	14	11	5	6	71	69.1
at #23/22 Tennessee	1/6/18	65-76	L	25-55	.455	8-22	.364	18-24	.750	12	25	37	33.9	16	23	12	4	8	76	69.6
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	1/9/18	74-73	W	26-52	.500	7-21	.333	14-24	.583	10	17	27	33.5	25	14	12	5	4	73	69.8
at Vanderbilt	1/13/18	74-67	W	21-55	.382	6-25	.240	19-27	.704	12	18	30	33.3	23	11	7	4	6	67	69.6
at South Carolina	1/16/18	68-76	L	23-61	.377	5-23	.217	25-38	.658	14	26	40	33.7	27	11	9	1	7	76	70.0
FLORIDA	1/20/18	64-66	L	22-66	.333	6-30	.200	16-25	.640	14	24	38	33.9	14	12	7	4	6	66	69.8
MISSISSIPPI STATE	1/23/18	78-65	W	26-67	.388	5-29	.172	8-10	.800	10	21	31	33.8	23	16	11	4	5	65	69.6
at #7/7 West Virginia	1/27/18	83-76	W	27-68	.397	10-24	.417	12-18	.667	17	17	34	33.8	23	12	6	7	6	76	69.9
VANDERBILT	1/30/18	83-81	Wot	28-59	.475	9-25	.360	16-23	.696	10	27	37	33.9	23	14	15	3	3	81	70.4
at Mizzou	2/3/18	60-69	L	19-41	.463	7-23	.304	24-33	.727	7	29	36	34.0	20	13	20	8	3	69	70.3
#15/14 TENNESSEE	2/6/18	59-61	L	22-52	.423	5-21	.238	12-14	.857	8	24	32	33.9	19	10	13	4	9	61	69.9
at Texas A&M	02/10/18	74-85	L	31-66	.470	9-23	.391	14-23	.609	12	28	40	34.2	18	16	9	6	5	85	70.5
at #10/11 Auburn	02/14/18	66-76	L	22-60	.367	8-27	.296	24-28	.857	9	25	34	34.2	17	12	7	5	9	76	70.7
RV/RV ALABAMA	2/17/18	81-71	W	26-55	.473	6-24	.250	13-21	.619	9	18	27	33.9	22	11	13	3	3	71	70.7
at RV/RV Arkansas	02/20/18	87-72	W	25-63	.397	9-26	.346	13-18	.722	11	18	29	33.7	19	14	9	7	3	72	70.8
RV/NR MIZZOU	02/24/18	87-66	W	21-58	.362	10-31	.323	14-22	.636	14	18	32	33.7	24	7	12	1	4	66	70.6
OLE MISS	02/28/18	96-78	W	30-74	.405	9-30	.300	9-15	.600	13	22	35	33.7	22	19	12	3	6	78	70.9
at RV/RV Florida	3/3/18	67-80	L	28-57	.491	10-24	.417	14-20	.700	12	22	34	33.7	20	15	10	3	8	80	71.2
vs Georgia	3/9/18	62-49	W	15-53	.283	6-23	.261	13-21	.619	16	26	42	34.0	13	5	11	6	3	49	70.5
vs Alabama	3/10/18	86-63	W	22-58	.379	8-24	.333	11-15	.733	13	18	31	33.9	22	6	11	3	4	63	70.2
vs #13/12 Tennessee	3/11/18	77-72	W	23-62	.371	10-27	.370	16-20	.800	18	16	34	33.9	21	14	10	3	4	72	70.3
Opponents		2390		836-2060	.406	260-869	.299	458-664	.690	410	742	1152	33.9	688	440	407	129	195	2390	70.3
Kentucky		2609		920-1958	.470	185-513	.361	584-838	.697	411	901	1312	38.6	642	456	443	166	191	2609	76.7

Games played: 34
Points/game: 70.3
FG Pct: 40.6
3FG Pct: 29.9
FT Pct: 69.0

Rebounds/game: 33.9
Assists/game: 12.9
Turnovers/game: 12.0
Assist/turnover ratio: 1.1
Steals/game: 5.7
Blocks/game: 3.8

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Team High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

Kentucky - TEAM GAME HIGHS

POINTS	107		UIC (11/26/17)
	96		OLE MISS (02/28/18)
	93		RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
	93		vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
	90		RV/RV LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
FIELD GOALS MADE	42		UIC (11/26/17)
	33		RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
	33		FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
	33		ETSU (11/17/17)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	68		vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	68		RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.667	(42-63)	UIC (11/26/17)
	.643	(27-42)	vs Alabama (3/10/18)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	12		vs Alabama (3/10/18)
	11		RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	22		RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
	21		at RV/RV Arkansas (02/20/18)
	21		vs UCLA (12/23/17)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.667	(12-18)	vs Alabama (3/10/18)
	.625	(10-16)	RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FREE THROWS MADE	27		GEORGIA (12/31/17)
	26		OLE MISS (02/28/18)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	38		GEORGIA (12/31/17)
	37		at Vanderbilt (1/13/18)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.850	(17-20)	at RV/RV Arkansas (02/20/18)
	.833	(25-30)	HARVARD (12/2/17)
	.833	(20-24)	vs #13/12 Tennessee (3/11/18)
REBOUNDS	53		TROY (11/20/17)
	49		at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
	49		FLORIDA (1/20/18)
ASSISTS	22		UIC (11/26/17)
	20		vs Alabama (3/10/18)
	20		vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
STEALS	11		UTAH VALLEY (11/10/17)
	9		OLE MISS (02/28/18)
	9		HARVARD (12/2/17)
BLOCKED SHOTS	10		vs #4/3 Kansas (11/14/17)
	9		HARVARD (12/2/17)
TURNOVERS	22		ETSU (11/17/17)
	19		vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
FOULS	32		at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	29		at Mizzou (2/3/18)

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

Opponent - GAME HIGHS

POINTS	86		RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
	85		at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
	83		vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	81		VANDERBILT (1/30/18)
	80		at RV/RV Florida (3/3/18)
FIELD GOALS MADE	32		RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
	31		at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	74		OLE MISS (02/28/18)
	70		vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.582	(32-55)	RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
	.500	(26-52)	RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	12		vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	12		HARVARD (12/2/17)
	12		FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	37		FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
	31		RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	31		ETSU (11/17/17)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.455	(10-22)	RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
	.429	(12-28)	HARVARD (12/2/17)
FREE THROWS MADE	25		at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	24		at #10/11 Auburn (02/14/18)
	24		at Mizzou (2/3/18)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	38		at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	33		at Mizzou (2/3/18)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.867	(13-15)	vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	.857	(24-28)	at #10/11 Auburn (02/14/18)
	.857	(12-14)	#15/14 TENNESSEE (2/6/18)
REBOUNDS	42		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	40		at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
	40		at South Carolina (1/16/18)
ASSISTS	23		at #23/22 Tennessee (1/6/18)
	20		vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
STEALS	12		vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	12		vs #4/3 Kansas (11/14/17)
BLOCKED SHOTS	8		at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	8		UTAH VALLEY (11/10/17)
TURNOVERS	21		UIC (11/26/17)
	20		at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	20		UTAH VALLEY (11/10/17)
FOULS	27		at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	26		GEORGIA (12/31/17)

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

Kentucky - GAME LOWS

POINTS	59		#15/14 TENNESSEE (2/6/18)
	60		at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	61		vs #4/3 Kansas (11/14/17)
	62		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	64		FLORIDA (1/20/18)
FIELD GOALS MADE	17		GEORGIA (12/31/17)
	19		#15/14 TENNESSEE (2/6/18)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	42		vs Alabama (3/10/18)
	43		RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)
	43		at Vanderbilt (1/13/18)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.313	(21-67)	at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	.315	(17-54)	GEORGIA (12/31/17)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	1		at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	2		HARVARD (12/2/17)
	2		at Mizzou (2/3/18)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	9		VERMONT (11/12/17)
	9		TROY (11/20/17)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.091	(1-11)	at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	.100	(2-20)	at Mizzou (2/3/18)
FREE THROWS MADE	3		ETSU (11/17/17)
	5		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	10		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	12		FLORIDA (1/20/18)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.200	(3-15)	ETSU (11/17/17)
	.471	(8-17)	at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
REBOUNDS	27		vs Alabama (3/10/18)
	28		RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)
ASSISTS	6		at RV/RV Florida (3/3/18)
	7		at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	7		VANDERBILT (1/30/18)
	7		#15/14 TENNESSEE (2/6/18)
STEALS	1		at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
	2		at #10/11 Auburn (02/14/18)
BLOCKED SHOTS	1		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	2		TROY (11/20/17)
	2		RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)
	2		at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	2		at RV/RV Florida (3/3/18)
TURNOVERS	5		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	9		GEORGIA (12/31/17)
	9		VANDERBILT (1/30/18)
	9		RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
FOULS	10		at LSU (1/3/18)
	13		MISSISSIPPI STATE (1/23/18)

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

Opponent - GAME LOWS

POINTS	49		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	61		ETSU (11/17/17)
	61		RV/RV LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
	61		GEORGIA (12/31/17)
	61		#15/14 TENNESSEE (2/6/18)
FIELD GOALS MADE	15		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	19		at Mizzou (2/3/18)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	41		at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	52		RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)
	52		#15/14 TENNESSEE (2/6/18)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.283	(15-53)	vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	.324	(22-68)	ETSU (11/17/17)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	2		GEORGIA (12/31/17)
	3		RV/RV LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	18		UTAH VALLEY (11/10/17)
	18		UIC (11/26/17)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.095	(2-21)	GEORGIA (12/31/17)
	.120	(3-25)	RV/RV LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
FREE THROWS MADE	7		VERMONT (11/12/17)
	7		FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
	7		at LSU (1/3/18)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	9		at LSU (1/3/18)
	10		MISSISSIPPI STATE (1/23/18)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.500	(7-14)	FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
	.538	(7-13)	VERMONT (11/12/17)
REBOUNDS	21		FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
	27		VERMONT (11/12/17)
	27		RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)
	27		RV/RV ALABAMA (2/17/18)
ASSISTS	5		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	6		vs Alabama (3/10/18)
STEALS	1		VERMONT (11/12/17)
	2		GEORGIA (12/31/17)
BLOCKED SHOTS	0		FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
	1		VERMONT (11/12/17)
	1		RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH (12/16/17)
	1		at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	1		RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
TURNOVERS	6		TROY (11/20/17)
	6		at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
FOULS	13		vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	14		vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	14		at LSU (1/3/18)
	14		FLORIDA (1/20/18)

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Player High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

Kentucky - INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Points	34		Knox, Kevin at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
	30		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Vanderbilt (1/30/18)
	29		Gilgeous-Alexander vs #13/12 Tennessee (3/11/18)
	25		Knox, Kevin vs UIC (11/26/17)
	25		Richards, Nick vs Fort Wayne (11/22/17)
Field Goals Made	12		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Vanderbilt (1/30/18)
	11		Knox, Kevin at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
Field Goal Att.	19		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Vanderbilt (1/30/18)
	18		Knox, Kevin vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	18		Knox, Kevin at RV/RV Arkansas (02/20/18)
	18		Diallo, Hamidou vs UCLA (12/23/17)
FG Pct (min 5 made)	1.000	(5-5)	Knox, Kevin vs RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)
	.900	(9-10)	Richards, Nick vs Fort Wayne (11/22/17)
3-Point FG Made	7		Gabriel, Wenyen vs Alabama (3/10/18)
	5		Knox, Kevin at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
3-Point FG Att.	8		Knox, Kevin at RV/RV Arkansas (02/20/18)
	8		Knox, Kevin at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
	8		Knox, Kevin at South Carolina (1/16/18)
3-Pt FG Pct (min 2 made)	1.000	(7-7)	Gabriel, Wenyen vs Alabama (3/10/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Knox, Kevin vs Mississippi State (1/23/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	Green, Quade at RV/RV Florida (3/3/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	Diallo, Hamidou vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	1.000	(2-2)	Green, Quade vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	1.000	(2-2)	Green, Quade vs RV/RV ALABAMA (2/17/18)
	1.000	(2-2)	Knox, Kevin vs RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)
Free Throws Made	12		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Georgia (12/31/17)
	11		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Ole Miss (02/28/18)
Free Throw Att.	14		Washington, PJ vs Mississippi State (1/23/18)
	13		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Ole Miss (02/28/18)
	13		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Georgia (12/31/17)
FT Pct (min 3 made)	1.000	(9-9)	Washington, PJ vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
	1.000	(8-8)	Knox, Kevin vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	1.000	(8-8)	Gilgeous-Alexander vs Harvard (12/2/17)
	1.000	(7-7)	Gilgeous-Alexander vs #13/12 Tennessee (3/11/18)
	1.000	(7-7)	Knox, Kevin at Vanderbilt (1/13/18)
	1.000	(7-7)	Richards, Nick vs Fort Wayne (11/22/17)
	1.000	(6-6)	Vanderbilt, Jarred at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	1.000	(6-6)	Washington, PJ vs RV/RV LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
	1.000	(5-5)	Gilgeous-Alexander at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	1.000	(5-5)	Gilgeous-Alexander vs Vanderbilt (1/30/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Green, Quade vs #13/12 Tennessee (3/11/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Gilgeous-Alexander vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Gilgeous-Alexander at RV/RV Arkansas (02/20/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Richards, Nick vs RV/RV ALABAMA (2/17/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Knox, Kevin vs RV/RV ALABAMA (2/17/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Washington, PJ vs #15/14 Tennessee (2/6/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Gabriel, Wenyen at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Gilgeous-Alexander vs Mississippi State (1/23/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Green, Quade vs Mississippi State (1/23/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Knox, Kevin at #23/22 Tennessee (1/6/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Knox, Kevin vs Harvard (12/2/17)
	1.000	(4-4)	Knox, Kevin vs Vermont (11/12/17)
	1.000	(4-4)	Killeya-Jones, Sacha vs Vermont (11/12/17)

	1.000	(4-4)	Green, Quade vs Utah Valley (11/10/17)
	1.000	(3-3)	Gabriel, Wenyen vs Ole Miss (02/28/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	Gilgeous-Alexander at LSU (1/3/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	Washington, PJ vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	1.000	(3-3)	Diallo, Hamidou vs UIC (11/26/17)
Rebounds	15		Vanderbilt, Jarred vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	15		Richards, Nick vs Fort Wayne (11/22/17)
Assists	10		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Ole Miss (02/28/18)
	9		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	9		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
Steals	4		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Fort Wayne (11/22/17)
	4		Gilgeous-Alexander vs Utah Valley (11/10/17)
	4		Knox, Kevin vs Utah Valley (11/10/17)
Blocked Shots	4		Washington, PJ vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
	4		Washington, PJ vs #4/3 Kansas (11/14/17)
Turnovers	7		Knox, Kevin vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
	6		Gilgeous-Alexander at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	6		Knox, Kevin vs ETSU (11/17/17)
	6		Washington, PJ vs ETSU (11/17/17)
	6		Gilgeous-Alexander vs #4/3 Kansas (11/14/17)
Fouls	5		Gabriel, Wenyen vs #13/12 Tennessee (3/11/18)
	5		Diallo, Hamidou vs Alabama (3/10/18)
	5		Vanderbilt, Jarred at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
	5		Gabriel, Wenyen at Texas A&M (02/10/18)
	5		Diallo, Hamidou at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	5		Diallo, Hamidou at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	5		Richards, Nick at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	5		Gabriel, Wenyen at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	5		Diallo, Hamidou at #23/22 Tennessee (1/6/18)
	5		Gabriel, Wenyen at #23/22 Tennessee (1/6/18)
	5		Washington, PJ vs Georgia (12/31/17)
	5		Knox, Kevin vs RV/RV LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
	5		Washington, PJ vs Harvard (12/2/17)
	5		Washington, PJ vs ETSU (11/17/17)
Minutes	40		Knox, Kevin vs Vanderbilt (1/30/18)
	39		Gilgeous-Alexander at RV/RV Arkansas (02/20/18)
	39		Gilgeous-Alexander vs #15/14 Tennessee (2/6/18)
	39		Knox, Kevin at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	39		Diallo, Hamidou at Vanderbilt (1/13/18)
	39		Gilgeous-Alexander at Vanderbilt (1/13/18)
	39		Gilgeous-Alexander vs RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Opponent High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 11, 2018)
All games

OPPONENT INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Points	27		SILVA, Chris at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	26		Davis, Terence vs Ole Miss (02/28/18)
	26		ROBERTSON, Kassius vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	26		MACON,DARYL at RV/RV Arkansas (02/20/18)
	26		Carter, Jevon at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
Field Goals Made	11		Duop Reath at LSU (1/3/18)
	10		Davis, Terence vs Ole Miss (02/28/18)
Field Goal Att.	23		Davis, Terence vs Ole Miss (02/28/18)
	20		Carter, Jevon at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
FG Pct (min 5 made)	1.000	(5-5)	Azubuike, Udoka vs #4/3 Kansas (11/14/17)
	.875	(7-8)	Hall, Donata vs RV/RV ALABAMA (2/17/18)
	.875	(7-8)	Jurkin, Peter vs ETSU (11/17/17)
3-Point FG Made	6		ROBERTSON, Kassius vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	6		Towns, Seth vs Harvard (12/2/17)
3-Point FG Att.	12		Davis, Terence vs Ole Miss (02/28/18)
	11		ROBERTSON, Kassius vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	11		HAMMOND,DEION vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
	11		Harrell, Kason vs Fort Wayne (11/22/17)
3-Pt FG Pct (min 2 made)	1.000	(2-2)	Ali, Prince vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	.857	(6-7)	Towns, Seth vs Harvard (12/2/17)
Free Throws Made	10		ROBERSON, Jeff vs Vanderbilt (1/30/18)
	9		HARPER, Jared at #10/11 Auburn (02/14/18)
	9		SILVA, Chris at South Carolina (1/16/18)
Free Throw Att.	13		SILVA, Chris at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	11		ROBERSON, Jeff vs Vanderbilt (1/30/18)
FT Pct (min 3 made)	1.000	(9-9)	HARPER, Jared at #10/11 Auburn (02/14/18)
	1.000	(8-8)	ROBERTSON, Kassius at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	1.000	(6-6)	ROBERSON, Jeff at Vanderbilt (1/13/18)
	1.000	(5-5)	Williams, Grant vs #13/12 Tennessee (3/11/18)
	1.000	(5-5)	Tyree Crump vs Georgia (3/9/18)
	1.000	(5-5)	FISHER-DAVIS,Matthew at Vanderbilt (1/13/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Sexton, Collin vs RV/RV ALABAMA (2/17/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Petty, John vs RV/RV ALABAMA (2/17/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Walker, Derrick vs #15/14 Tennessee (2/6/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Carter, Jevon at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Davis, Tyler vs RV/RV TEXAS A&M (1/9/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Bowden, Jordan at #23/22 Tennessee (1/6/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Tremont Waters at LSU (1/3/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Adel, Deng vs RV/RV LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
	1.000	(4-4)	Holiday, Aaron vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	1.000	(4-4)	SEABORN,MICAH vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
	1.000	(4-4)	Robinson, Clint vs UIC (11/26/17)
	1.000	(4-4)	Toolson, Jake vs Utah Valley (11/10/17)
	1.000	(3-3)	Hudson, Jalen at RV/RV Florida (3/3/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	West, Lamont at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	Person, Wesley vs Troy (11/20/17)
Rebounds	13		Stevens, Bruce vs Ole Miss (02/28/18)
	12		Maten, Yante vs Georgia (12/31/17)
Assists	9		Robinson, Justin vs RV/RV Virginia Tech (12/16/17)
	8		Chiozza, Chris vs Florida (1/20/18)
	8		Holiday, Aaron vs UCLA (12/23/17)
Steals	4		Schofield, Admiral at #23/22 Tennessee (1/6/18)
	3		Williams, Grant vs #13/12 Tennessee (3/11/18)

	3	Allen, KeVaughn at RV/RV Florida (3/3/18)
	3	MCLEMORE, Anfernee at #10/11 Auburn (02/14/18)
	3	KOTSAR, Maik at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	3	BOOKER, Frank at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	3	Welsh, Thomas vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	3	TILGHMAN,AUSTIN vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
	3	SALNAVE,RAY vs Monmouth (12/9/17)
	3	Konchar, John vs Fort Wayne (11/22/17)
	3	Long, Jermaine vs ETSU (11/17/17)
	3	Newman, Malik vs #4/3 Kansas (11/14/17)
	3	Vick, Lagerald vs #4/3 Kansas (11/14/17)
Blocked Shots	7	Konate, Sagaba at #7/7 West Virginia (1/27/18)
	5	Manyang, Akolda vs Utah Valley (11/10/17)
Turnovers	7	Holiday, Aaron vs UCLA (12/23/17)
	5	PURYEAR, Kevin vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	5	ROBERTSON, Kassius at Mizzou (2/3/18)
	5	Blount, Jordan vs UIC (11/26/17)
	5	Bradford, Desonta vs ETSU (11/17/17)
	5	Graham, Devonte' vs #4/3 Kansas (11/14/17)
Fouls	5	Bowden, Jordan vs #13/12 Tennessee (3/11/18)
	5	PORTER, Jontay vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	5	PURYEAR, Kevin vs RV/NR MIZZOU (02/24/18)
	5	Sexton, Collin vs RV/RV ALABAMA (2/17/18)
	5	Walker, Derrick vs #15/14 Tennessee (2/6/18)
	5	Stapleton, Xavian vs Mississippi State (1/23/18)
	5	HAASE, Felipe at South Carolina (1/16/18)
	5	Jackson II, William vs Georgia (12/31/17)
	5	Mahmoud, Anas vs RV/RV LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
	5	Blackshear, Kerry vs RV/RV Virginia Tech (12/16/17)
	5	Ottey, Marcus vs UIC (11/26/17)
	5	Blount, Jordan vs UIC (11/26/17)

2017-18 Kentucky Men's Basketball

Kentucky Team Game-by-Game Comparison (as of Mar 11, 2018)

All games

Opponent	1st	2nd	Score	Mar	Total FG	FG Pct	3-Pointers	3FG Pct	Free Throws	FT Pct	Rebounds		Assist	T/Over	Block	Steal	Fouls
UTAH VALLEY	25/34	48/29	73-63	+10	26-66/23-56	.394/.411	5-15/5-18	.333/.278	16-23/12-18	.696/.667	38/39	(1)	17/12	14/20	8/8	11/8	18/20
VERMONT	36/24	37/45	73-69	+4	26-56/26-58	.464/.448	3-9/10-29	.333/.345	18-23/7-13	.783/.538	36/27	+9	15/14	10/7	4/1	3/1	17/18
#4/3 Kansas	33/34	28/31	61-65	(4)	23-55/24-68	.418/.353	3-13/8-28	.231/.286	12-18/9-16	.667/.563	39/39	-	14/17	18/11	10/2	7/12	20/15
ETSU	36/30	42/31	78-61	+17	33-58/22-68	.569/.324	9-16/8-31	.563/.258	3-15/9-14	.200/.643	40/37	+3	17/14	22/16	8/2	6/8	20/19
TROY	41/25	29/37	70-62	+8	26-59/23-64	.441/.359	3-9/4-27	.333/.148	15-23/12-16	.652/.750	53/30	+23	13/9	16/6	2/5	3/5	16/20
FORT WAYNE	45/37	41/30	86-67	+19	33-55/24-60	.600/.400	5-11/12-37	.455/.324	15-24/7-14	.625/.500	44/21	+23	17/13	16/10	3/0	6/8	18/20
UIC	52/35	55/38	107-73	+34	42-63/26-64	.667/.406	4-12/5-18	.333/.278	19-28/16-24	.679/.667	37/33	+4	22/7	15/21	7/6	6/7	19/22
HARVARD	42/37	37/33	79-70	+9	26-56/23-62	.464/.371	2-14/12-28	.143/.429	25-30/12-17	.833/.706	37/36	+1	13/13	10/15	9/3	9/4	15/21
Monmouth	54/31	39/45	93-76	+17	31-58/26-70	.534/.371	7-19/10-29	.368/.345	24-32/14-18	.750/.778	44/34	+10	20/20	19/15	8/2	7/10	18/21
RV/RV VIRGINIA TECH	41/47	52/39	93-86	+7	33-68/32-55	.485/.582	11-22/10-22	.500/.455	16-24/12-17	.667/.706	33/30	+3	18/18	11/19	4/1	8/3	16/22
UCLA	39/39	36/44	75-83	(8)	29-68/29-61	.426/.475	6-21/12-30	.286/.400	11-16/13-15	.688/.867	36/37	(1)	14/14	14/14	3/2	8/12	16/14
RV/RV LOUISVILLE	41/27	49/34	90-61	+29	30-62/24-69	.484/.348	6-13/3-25	.462/.120	24-30/10-13	.800/.769	44/37	+7	13/10	11/11	5/5	5/3	19/25
GEORGIA	26/27	40/34	66-61	+5	17-54/23-58	.315/.397	5-16/2-21	.313/.095	27-38/13-21	.711/.619	42/38	+4	10/10	9/15	6/3	8/2	23/26
LSU	31/36	43/35	74-71	+3	31-61/29-65	.508/.446	5-12/6-24	.417/.250	7-13/7-9	.538/.778	35/34	+1	13/14	14/11	3/5	6/6	10/14
#23/22 Tennessee	37/29	28/47	65-76	(11)	24-52/25-55	.462/.455	7-19/8-22	.368/.364	10-16/18-24	.625/.750	30/37	(7)	14/23	16/12	4/4	7/8	23/16
RV/RV TEXAS A&M	37/35	37/38	74-73	+1	24-43/26-52	.558/.500	4-12/7-21	.333/.333	22-34/14-24	.647/.583	28/27	+1	10/14	12/12	2/5	5/4	18/25
Vanderbilt	36/27	38/40	74-67	+7	23-43/21-55	.535/.382	3-10/6-25	.300/.240	25-37/19-27	.676/.704	35/30	+5	11/11	11/7	7/4	3/6	19/23
South Carolina	37/34	31/42	68-76	(8)	22-49/23-61	.449/.377	1-11/5-23	.091/.217	23-36/25-38	.639/.658	35/40	(5)	7/11	16/9	5/1	5/7	32/27
FLORIDA	31/33	33/33	64-66	(2)	26-65/22-66	.400/.333	4-17/6-30	.235/.200	8-12/16-25	.667/.640	49/38	+11	13/12	17/7	4/4	4/6	17/14
MISSISSIPPI STATE	38/36	40/29	78-65	+13	25-58/26-67	.431/.388	5-14/5-29	.357/.172	23-30/8-10	.767/.800	41/31	+10	11/16	11/11	5/4	7/5	13/23
#7/7 West Virginia	33/48	50/28	83-76	+7	26-58/27-68	.448/.397	8-18/10-24	.444/.417	23-29/12-18	.793/.667	49/34	+15	16/12	16/6	7/7	1/6	20/23
VANDERBILT	27/33	44/38	83-81	+2	29-64/28-59	.453/.475	5-14/9-25	.357/.360	20-27/16-23	.741/.696	35/37	(2)	7/14	9/15	4/3	6/3	22/23
Mizzou	18/28	42/41	60-69	(9)	21-67/19-41	.313/.463	2-20/7-23	.100/.304	16-23/24-33	.696/.727	40/36	+4	9/13	12/20	2/8	7/3	29/20
#15/14 TENNESSEE	26/27	33/34	59-61	(2)	19-45/22-52	.422/.423	3-14/5-21	.214/.238	18-25/12-14	.720/.857	30/32	(2)	7/10	15/13	4/4	4/9	18/19
Texas A&M	30/26	44/59	74-85	(11)	30-66/31-66	.455/.470	6-15/9-23	.400/.391	8-17/14-23	.471/.609	43/40	+3	15/16	12/9	5/6	3/5	21/18
#10/11 Auburn	33/39	33/37	66-76	(10)	25-54/22-60	.463/.367	3-14/8-27	.214/.296	13-20/24-28	.650/.857	36/34	+2	9/12	14/7	4/5	2/9	21/17
RV/RV ALABAMA	39/34	42/37	81-71	+10	28-64/26-55	.438/.473	4-11/6-24	.364/.250	21-28/13-21	.750/.619	44/27	+17	10/11	13/13	4/3	5/3	19/22
RV/RV Arkansas	43/43	44/29	87-72	+15	31-67/25-63	.463/.397	8-21/9-26	.381/.346	17-20/13-18	.850/.722	46/29	+17	16/14	11/9	4/7	7/3	19/19
RV/NR MIZZOU	44/32	43/34	87-66	+21	28-51/21-58	.549/.362	10-16/10-31	.625/.323	21-28/14-22	.750/.636	36/32	+4	17/7	9/12	6/1	5/4	19/24
OLE MISS	50/42	46/36	96-78	+18	31-62/30-74	.500/.405	8-18/9-30	.444/.300	26-35/9-15	.743/.600	43/35	+8	19/19	12/12	5/3	9/6	17/22
RV/RV Florida	33/48	34/32	67-80	(13)	24-58/28-57	.414/.491	6-16/10-24	.375/.417	13-22/14-20	.591/.700	36/34	+2	6/15	13/10	2/3	4/8	17/20
Georgia	30/23	32/26	62-49	+13	26-61/15-53	.426/.283	5-17/6-23	.294/.261	5-10/13-21	.500/.619	39/42	(3)	14/5	5/11	1/6	4/3	16/13
Alabama	29/19	57/44	86-63	+23	27-42/22-58	.643/.379	12-18/8-24	.667/.333	20-28/11-15	.714/.733	27/31	(4)	20/6	10/11	5/3	4/4	18/22
#13/12 Tennessee	36/31	41/41	77-72	+5	25-50/23-62	.500/.371	7-16/10-27	.438/.370	20-24/16-20	.833/.800	32/34	(2)	9/14	10/10	6/3	6/4	19/21

Note: Game totals are displayed in the format TEAM/OPPONENT for each category

2017-18 SEASON IN CLIPS

Meet the Wildcats: Loyalty, family fuel Baker on and off the court

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | July 20, 2017

Jemarl Baker's alarm goes off in what is normally sunny Menifee, California. Only, it's not sunny today.

Well, actually, it might be sunny later, but it isn't right now.

That's because it's 4 a.m.

Baker rolls out of bed, gets dressed, grabs everything he needs for the day and walks to the car. He'll get some extra shuteye on the ride up as his dad, Jemarl Sr., begins the hour-long trek to Roosevelt High School.

It's an arduous routine for a high schooler to undergo just to get to school. Baker did it for four years. He'd arrive on campus around 6 a.m. to get a workout in, putting up shots, building a sweat and refining his craft. After that, it was time for class.

"It was really tough," Baker said in an exclusive interview with CoachCal.com. "Me and my dad both were very exhausted. It was tough for both of us. I would sleep in the car. For him it was tough. Just to sacrifice for me like he did, it's just a blessing."

Baker could have left Roosevelt to attend a different high school. Perhaps he could have transferred somewhere closer to home, or perhaps he could have gone to a school that was ranked a bit higher than Roosevelt.

Instead, the 6-foot-3 guard stuck with Roosevelt, a place he called home. As a senior, he averaged 17.1 points per game, knocked down 94 3-pointers and led the Mustangs to their first state championship in school history.

"I was thinking about leaving Roosevelt, but I never really wanted to leave," Baker said. "I thought it might have been a better opportunity for me somewhere else, but I knew I wanted to stay home. … And I'm glad because we were able to win a state championship, something that I really wanted to do."

Baker had flown under the radar for much of his pre-college career. He had great skills, obviously, but was more of an unknown because he didn't play on the AAU circuit until he was entering his junior year of high school.

He had committed to California as a high school sophomore and signed a letter of intent with the Golden Bears, but when then-head coach Cuonzo Martin left to take the head coaching job at Missouri, Baker reopened his recruitment.

It didn't take long for Kentucky and Coach Cal to come calling.

"I was star struck when I first saw him, but once he started talking and everything like that, then I just settled down and actually listened to what he had to say and everything," Baker said of his first visit with Coach Cal in California. "I didn't commit just because it was Kentucky. Like, I actually loved what he had to say and loved the opportunity as well."

The Wildcats were in the midst of assembling what would end up being their eighth No. 1-ranked recruiting class in nine years under Calipari, but they needed a shooter. While Baker is just that, he's also capable of doing much more than just shooting.

A self-described basketball junkie and gym rat, when Baker isn't playing basketball he loves watching it and dissecting it.

"Whenever I can I study the game," he said.

He would watch countless hours of his favorite player, Kobe Bryant, not because he wanted to model his game after the future hall of famer, but because he loved his mentality on the court. When it comes to shooting, it's Stephen Curry who has the best stroke in the game.

He didn't limit his film study to the pros.

"I actually watched a lot of (Kentucky games)," Baker said. "They're all televised so I've actually been a Kentucky fan since probably middle school."

Baker has played point guard for nearly his entire career and his length gives him the type of defensive potential that Calipari loves to see on his teams. But Baker is known by many as a "shooter," a label that has a few negative connotations often associated with it, many of which include a lack of defending.

To the contrary, defense is Baker's top priority.

"In high school, I guarded the best player every game," he said. "It's something I take pride in. I hate when people score on me. People say I'm a shooter, but I focus on probably everything else a little bit more.

"I can shoot the ball, but I don't see myself as a shooter. I just know I can shoot. I don't see myself as just a shooter."

Now, after four years at an "underdog" school and playing as an under-the-radar prospect, Baker joins the most widely discussed college basketball program in the country. Additionally, the Associated Press has ranked the Wildcats in the top three of its preseason poll each of the past six years, and in the top five in seven of the past eight years under Coach Cal.

The days of low expectations for Baker's team have been replaced by having the proverbial target on its back.

"This will really be the first time in my life where I'm playing with like a super team," Baker said.

"It's just a different mindset where you're trying to attack the best team instead of being on the best team and everybody attacking you."

And when it comes to Baker, personally, proving doubters wrong is as much a part of his game as anything else he does on the floor.

"People (have) doubted me my whole life pretty much, saying I'm not good enough to be certain things," Baker said. "It's just fuel to the fire, really.

"I've honestly been under the radar my whole life, so it's nothing changed. I'll continue to prove myself and try to prove myself right every time."

The key for Calipari's youngest team to play beyond their age, Baker says, will boil down to how they come together and if they can play unselfishly – to which he believes they both can and will.

For his part, Baker brings an ability to stretch the floor and shoot from just about anywhere. When Calipari called Baker the "knockdown shooter" this class needed, he didn't shy away from the pressure that comes with that statement.

"I really don't believe in pressure," Baker said. "This is what a basketball player wants – to be in this position and have opportunities like this. Of course there's pressure, but it's what you want."

Baker is able to shrug off any outside pressures thanks to that work ethic he's acquired throughout his youth. He's put in the hours to trust what he can do. His biggest influence on the court is his family, which includes three older sisters.

"My dad pushes me harder than anybody," Baker said. "That's why I'm here."

And when Baker takes the court, whether it's at a workout, in a big gym or a small gym, it's his dad who remains on his mind and in his ear. And that has made all those hour-long car rides worth their latest journey together, from California to Lexington.

"He tried not to show it, but it definitely hurt him," said Baker about his parents dropping him off in Lexington. "He called me the other day saying how much he missed me and things like that. I just can't wait to be able to go back home in August to see him."

Meet the Wildcats: Gilgeous-Alexander works with eye to the future

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | July 26, 2017

The game is over and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander is heading back to the locker room.

He grabs his phone from his locker and sees that his mom, Charmaine Gilgeous, has been trying to get a hold of him.
What will she say? Good game? Keep working hard? Maybe some constructive criticism?

"You suck," she says.

Oh.

To outsiders, Charmaine's words seem blunt and harsh, but Shai doesn't mind it. He's used to the criticism at this point and he knows where it's coming from and why it's being said. He'd much rather hear that than have her sugarcoat her feelings.

"My mom is probably my number one supporter and hater at the same time," he said in an exclusive interview with CoachCal.com. "She always, always finds a way to criticize, but always finds a way to motivate me and keep me going."

Charmaine knows what it takes to achieve great success in the sports world. A track athlete, she ran in the 400 meters at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona for her home country of Antigua and Barbuda.

Now she serves as a motivator of sorts for Shai, a freshman guard at Kentucky. After every game he plays Shai knows he'll have a phone call or text message waiting for him and he knows who it will be from.

"She'll blow (up) my phone until I answer," Shai said. "The first thing that comes out of her mouth is, 'You suck.' That's the first thing. Straight to it. Doesn't even ease her way into it. You just suck. But then she'll tell me good game and she'll tell me what I can do to get better, stuff like that. She'll always tell me at the end to stay humble and know who I am."

She also likes to remind Shai just how good she was as a track athlete at Alabama and beyond. That's one reason why it was so special for Shai to make the Canadian national team as a 17-year-old.

"When I was younger, she'd always brag about her achievements," Shai said. "She was, I think, 17 as well and she ran for the senior national team … and I was 17 as well and got to play on the senior men's national team, so I got to rub it back in her face. She's not ahead of me anymore."

Shai comes to Kentucky as a promising prospect who flew under the radar for a bit before coming more to the forefront over the past year. By the time the final recruiting rankings were released by 247Sports, Gilgeous-Alexander went from a four-star prospect ranked in the 40s all the way up to a five-star at No. 19 nationally.

Kentucky knew who Gilgeous-Alexander was, but head coach John Calipari said playing with the Canadian national team brought pieces of his game out that previously had not been seen. That play, Gilgeous-Alexander said, resulted in additional attention and boosted his confidence when he played against guys his own age.

Gilgeous-Alexander committed to Florida, the first "high major" school that had offered him. At the time, he felt it was the perfect fit. The Gators matched his goals and all was good. But as the year went on and Gilgeous-Alexander continued to get better and grow as a player, his goals began to change and he decided he wanted to de-commit and reset everything.

Enter Kentucky.

"Coach Cal, when he talked to me, it was different," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "Like, a lot of coaches tell you what you want to hear and they sugarcoat you and suck up to you and stuff like that. Coach Cal wasn't like that. He was straight forward, and I love it. Guys I look up to in my life, mentors and stuff like that, they're straightforward with me. That's what I want to be around, so that's why I chose Kentucky."

Calipari's straightforward approach surprised him at first and stuck out from the other recruiting pitches he had heard in the past.

"I believe he said, 'We don't beg for anybody. No player in the country. We don't beg for anybody,' " Gilgeous-Alexander said of Coach Cal's recruiting message. "If you like it you're going to come and it is what it is."

At 6-foot-6, Gilgeous-Alexander brings great size to the point guard position, aiding in his passing and ability to get in the lane. He also knows his size can make him a defensive weapon, but admits he can get lazy at times on defense.

"I just have to take pride in it every possession and really focus on it," he said.

Which is part of the reason Kentucky stood out to Gilgeous-Alexander. Kentucky, perhaps more than any other school, will be able to push the Canadian each day in practice with its abundance of talent.

He entered high school at 5-6. He grew three inches as a sophomore and then another six inches to get up to 6-3 as a junior. The growth spurt caused Gilgeous-Alexander to buy new clothes. On campus now and working out with strength and conditioning coach Rob Harris, Gilgeous-Alexander has already gained 10 pounds.

"Honestly, I like the feeling of being sore, the feeling of I just put in work and it hurts now but it's going to pay off later," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "It's a good feeling."

On the court, Gilgeous-Alexander has been working on his shot and getting it off quicker. At the Derby Festival Classic in Louisville, Gilgeous-Alexander won the 3-point contest and then scored 29 points in just 19 minutes and knocked down 12 of 15 shots en route to MVP honors in the game.

"That's probably what a lot of people think is one of my weaknesses in my game [his shot], but I've put in a lot of work and I know I can shoot it so I was confident that I was going to win," Gilgeous-Alexander said of the 3-point contest. "And then the game I was the only Kentucky guy in the game so I just wanted to let all the other guys know we're separate. Like, it's a different level out here. And that's what I did."

He's also been working on getting his shot off quicker by positioning his feet and hands better for when he gets the ball, and said he's already noticed a difference in how he plays.

When it comes to Gilgeous-Alexander, everything the 19-year-old does is with an eye toward the future. It's why he likes a straightforward approach. There's no sense in wasting time when a correction or suggestion can be made to fix a potential problem.

He sees a bit of Rajon Rondo in his game in that he's long and can pass the ball, but also likes watching how Chris Paul uses ball screens. Now it's about applying those qualities to his own game.

From his youth, to his college selection and his work during training, Gilgeous-Alexander competes in everything he does, and the competition always remains the same.

"It's more mental with me," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I'm not really chasing anybody. I like to chase the version of me 10 years from now. So, how much better I am 10 years from now, I'm trying to get to that earlier than 10 years from now. I just work extremely hard."

Meet the Wildcats: Doubters fuel Richards' drive

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Aug. 3, 2017

Nick Richards does not like it when people doubt him or his abilities. He uses others' pessimism as motivational fuel. And he has a full tank.

You see, the 7-foot Richards is new to this whole game of basketball.

As a young kid, Richards enjoyed skateboarding. He didn't get experienced enough to skate on a halfpipe, but he could do kick-flips, ollies and pop-shove-its.

He also loves soccer. His favorite athlete, regardless of sport, is Cristiano Ronaldo, the Portuguese striker who has claimed the Ballon d'Or award, presented to the world's

top player, four times. When Real Madrid, his favorite team, faced Barcelona in El Clásico, Richards was glued to the TV. He even ordered a Real Madrid jersey recently.

As a teenager, Richards left his hometown of Kingston, Jamaica, for Queens, New York. Replacing the trees, heat and mountains for pavement, frigid winters and skyscrapers, Richards was in a new world.

It was somewhere around this time that he first began playing basketball. Obviously, he was a bit behind his peers, who began playing ball since they could walk, but he made up ground in a hurry. Unlike many of those peers, it wasn't love at first sight between he and basketball.

"My first year, I didn't really – it was just a hobby, just like skateboarding was just a hobby for me. I think it was my junior year I just saw that I could do something with this," Richards said in an exclusive interview with CoachCal.com. "When you see something that can happen you put your mind to it, you start working on it every day. If you hate it, you hate it, but if you fall in love with it, you just keep doing it. I just fell in love with it."

Entering high school as a 6-foot-10 beanpole weighing somewhere between 180 and 190 pounds, Richards arrives at Kentucky at 240 pounds.

"I was weak, couldn't hold my own on the block. Couldn't get a rebound," Richards said of his early days on the hardwood. "Everybody was stronger than me. As the years went on, I just kept on getting better."

Aiding his drive to get better and better was the continual doubt of others.

"That's one of the reasons I play basketball right now," Richards said. "People told me I couldn't do anything with it. People told me I was going to be a D-3 player when I was a freshman. Now I'm at Kentucky."

Now Richards keeps that doubt and pessimism close to his heart. Literally.

In July, Richards got his first tattoo. It's a simple message that stretches across his chest: Be somebody that nobody thought you could be.

"There's something inside of me," Richards said. "I don't like when people tell me I can't do something."

He played his high school ball at the Patrick School in New Jersey, the same school – then known as St. Patrick's – as Kentucky star forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist. As a senior, Richards didn't put up the typical jaw-dropping stats of many other Kentucky signees – 12.3 points and 7.5 rebounds per game – but he was still named the NJ.com Player of the Year in New Jersey.

Why?

His sheer presence on the court altered games and opposing teams' plans. The bigger the moment, the more Richards seemed to shine. He led his team to the New Jersey Tournament of Champions title, posting 26 points and 11 rebounds in a semifinal win.

Going to a school with so many other talented players and at a place with such great history gave Richards perspective, which should help him in a similar situation at Kentucky.

"Most elite high school kids can take however many shots they want in high school," Richards said. "My coach disciplined me and told me to think about the team first. It's always team first. And I think that just made me more humble. I appreciate him for that.

"We won, but I couldn't do it without my teammates or my coaches. When you got guys where your bench is 10 deep, that really helps you."

Along with his current teammates in Lexington, Richards has been putting in the work to get ready for his upcoming freshman campaign. The grind is nothing he shies away from. He embraces it. The late-night workouts at Kroger Field. The early-morning sessions at Nutter Field House. The pick-up games at the Joe Craft Center. Richards wants it all.

"I never shy away from putting in work in basketball," Richards said. "From working late nights. Even when I'm tired – you see me dead tired – I don't want to stop. I just want to keep going.

"I think if it wasn't for my work ethic I wouldn't be here. If it wasn't for haters I wouldn't be here either."

The hard work and determined drive make Richards' rapid ascension to basketball stardom more understandable. Still, to go from a 15-year-old picking up a ball and playing competitively for the first time to a five-star Kentucky basketball player a few short years later is remarkable.

Don't expect Richards to sit back and reflect on his journey though.

"I know within myself I can do way more," he said.

Entering college, Richards is known more as a defensive stopper than an offensive juggernaut. His athleticism allows him to be a nightmare in pick-and-roll situations, catching lobs and finishing at the rim. Defensively, he's a rim protector and shot blocker, perhaps the truest one Kentucky has had since the days of Willie Cauley-Stein.

He's more than just that though. One of his goals is to show people more of his offensive game, but only as it aligns with helping the team win. As he said, if it takes "three points, 20 rebounds and seven blocks" to win a game, he's more than happy to oblige to that stat line.

Coach Cal likely wouldn't mind those numbers either.

At Kentucky, Richards' offensive and defensive games will both have opportunities to flourish thanks to the other players' versatility and position-less nature.

Offensively, the quartet of Wenyen Gabriel, Kevin Knox, PJ Washington and Jarred Vanderbilt will stretch defenses, giving Richards more one-on-one matchups. On the other side, Richards' ability to block shots and defend the paint allow all the Wildcats to be a bit more aggressive defensively around the perimeter.

And if that combination comes to fruition there shouldn't be many doubters left for Richards.

"We're just going to shock the world," he said.

Meet the Wildcats: Whirlwind recruitment over, Knox ready for freshman campaign

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Aug. 10, 2017

It was supposed to be one of the most exciting days of Kevin Knox's young life. After a whirlwind recruitment that had everyone guessing where he, one of the top prospects in the entire 2017 class, was going to go to school, Knox was ready to announce his decision.

He had a social media post, fit with a graphic of him in the uniform of his school of choice, ready to go. He clicked send, turned his phone off and handed it to his parents.

Knox's recruitment was over and he didn't want to see the reaction.

"I turned my phone off for a day-and-a-half after all the chaos," Knox said in an exclusive interview with CoachCal.com. "As soon as I pressed send on Instagram and Twitter, I immediately turned my phone off, gave it to my parents and let them have it for like a day-and-a-half. I didn't want none of that criticism, all those people cussing at me and all that bad, negative energy."

While Knox was excited about his choice and happy the process was complete, he knew others wouldn't share his same enthusiasm. Knox, obviously, knew he wanted to go to Kentucky, but the number of other people who knew that was small. Many of the most respected recruiting analysts believed Knox would choose any one of his other finalists other than Kentucky. Surprise commitments in recruiting rarely occur in

the 21st century, and this qualified as one of the biggest surprises in recent memory.

"Every time I got a notification on Twitter, an article came out, we sat down and talked about it," said Knox of the conversations he had with his family about his recruitment. "(We) just laughed about it because people just like to guess where you're going like they know what's going on inside your house. I mean, all those outside people I just kept my circle small between my family and I. We just talked and made a decision that was best for me.

"I mean, I know a lot of people said that Kentucky was like one of my last schools on my list the whole time, but like I said, a lot of people didn't know what was going on inside my house. They say all that stuff, but I had a different thought process the whole time. I actually really liked Kentucky, what Cal was saying, what (Kenny Payne) was saying."

Many believed Knox would choose to go elsewhere, in part, because Kentucky already had commitments from similarly athletic, versatile forwards PJ Washington and Jarred Vanderbilt. But it was Vanderbilt who actually reached out to Knox shortly after his own commitment to encourage Knox to come to UK with him. Add in that Knox announced he would make his decision public on Derby Day, a holiday in the state of Kentucky, and Big Blue Nation and recruiting analysts thought Knox's days as a Wildcat were gone before they started.

"PJ and Jarred both committed, both similar players, but we're kind of different in a lot of areas," Knox said. "I mean, we're both really great players. I think that we'll do really well together. You'll see us on the court a lot together. I think Cal really likes our abilities to be able to get rebounds and dribble. So, I think you'll see us a lot on the court. A lot of people say we can't play together, but (Jarred) hit me up after he committed, doing his recruiting spiel. It's not like we didn't want to play with each other. We're doing really well now actually."

So Knox made his decision, he was Bluegrass bound, and then he shut out the social media world for 36 hours. He played NBA 2K, where he suits up for the Rockets (it's not fair to play with the Warriors, he says, unless you're facing someone who's playing with the Cavaliers) watched TV and relaxed.

The "negative energy" that followed his decision was expected. After all, just about every fan base of the schools listed among Knox's finalists thought they were going to get the prized prospect. Now, as for the source of who spewed the majority of that negativity. That perhaps came as a surprise at times.

"I think people just take it to heart," Knox said. "It's kind of sad to see people go at young kids like that, but it's part of life. That's what my dad trained me for to be mentally strong for that. And it be mostly adults that be coming at you too. That's the sad thing about it. You don't have nothing else to do with your life? Like, you're coming at a 17-year-old kid who's just making a decision that's best for him. So, it's like, what are you doing? Like, just move on. You have other recruits. You have next year. It's not the end of the world.

"But I know the coaches for the other teams, they all texted me and said great decision, just wishing me luck and stuff like that. That was real professional of them. That was good. My parents really liked that. I liked that too. It's just good to see the coaches respect my decision and not (act) like their fans, basically."

Though he played before the social media age, Knox's dad, Kevin Knox Sr., was a wide receiver for College Football Hall of Fame head coach Bobby Bowden at Florida State and warned his son what was coming.

"Before I made my decision my parents told me I was going to get a lot of bad talk, negative comments," Knox said. "All of the schools really wanted me to come there, especially UNC, Duke. Those are schools that really thought they had a chance at getting me. Then, when I didn't go there, I kinda got a lot of criticism for that. But, I mean, my dad basically, he's been through it so he knows what I gotta do mentally to get through that. That's one of the reasons that I turned my phone off."

Knox Sr. reeled in more than 100 passes at FSU, including 42 and seven touchdowns as a senior on the Seminoles' 1993 national championship team.

Like his dad, the younger Knox had a budding football career himself as a quarterback for his high school, Tampa Catholic. College interest and offers began to cycle in for him as a sophomore, but that also happened to be the final year he played.

Knox was getting to be a bit too tall to play football and his feet were too big. As a quarterback, he was also the recipient of some big-time hits that helped make his decision easier.

"I didn't want to risk injuries and me risking basketball and football," Knox said, "so I just decided to stick to one sport that I love and I decided to pick basketball."

His recruiting visit to Kentucky still included football, though. Knox's father just so happens to be friends with UK football tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator Vince Marrow, as well as wide receivers coach Lamar Thomas, who played at Miami while Knox Sr. was at FSU.

"I didn't know who they were, but when my dad told me we were going to go to the football facility, I was like, 'I'm here on a basketball visit. Why are we going to see football?' " Knox said. "Then he told me everything about Coach Vince and everything. It was good to go over there. We sat down and talked with them a little bit. He walked us around their new facility – it's really nice actually. It was a great visit. My dad, he loves to go talk to old friends and everything like that.

"(Coach Marrow) was definitely trying to sell me to come here. I mean, obviously he sold my dad. He got my dad to get me to come here and I decided to come here too. He sold me pretty well."

While he didn't follow in his dad's footsteps on the football field, Knox admires and looks up to his father in everything he does. His pregame routine includes a conversation with his parents, where his dad will often go over a scouting report on the opposing team. Off the court, Knox Sr. is there to provide his son with lessons and life tips.

"He's my everything. He's my role model," Knox said. "People always ask me, 'Who's your role model? Who's your super hero?' I always say my dad. He's been to the highest level. He knows what it takes. He's been to college, won a national championship, got drafted. He just knows what it takes to get there. My dad has one of the hardest work ethics in the world. He's always working."

Now that he's at Kentucky, Knox provides the Wildcats with supreme versatility. Head coach John Calipari stresses positionless basketball, and Knox appears to be the epitome of that.

He got a head start on his training under Coach Cal when he accepted an invitation to USA Basketball training camp for the FIBA U19 World Cup. Playing against some of the best players in the country in his age group, Knox was a star in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Knox, who had played for USA in some capacity twice already, made the trip because he wanted to represent his country again. Unfortunately for him, he tweaked his hamstring one practice and decided with Coach Cal that heading back to Lexington to rest would be the best option.

"One of the reasons I went out there is because my family is really big on military and air force and stuff like that," Knox said. "I have a couple uncles and aunts who are in the military now. So, I talked to my dad and told him I really want to go because of that. I wanted to represent my country for

the third time. I got out there and I thought I played really well like Cal said. All the other coaches were really impressed. Just happened to have the injury. I was pretty disappointed."

After one such impressive practice, Calipari called the 6-foot-9 forward a "guard." By comparison, Knox would have been tied for the fourth tallest player on last year's UK roster and just one inch shorter than Bam Adebayo, Sacha Killeya-Jones and Tai Wynyard.

Knox sees players such as Draymond Green and Kevin Durant – his favorite player – of the Warriors, and sees the postionless direction that basketball is moving. His time at quarterback helped develop his footwork, he said, and now he's working on his ball handling, jump shot and defense so that he will be able to better defend guards along the perimeter.

Being pushed in practice by fellow athletic, versatile wings, such as Washington and Vanderbilt, will only enhance Knox's game and is another reason he said he ultimately chose to come to UK.

"I think that's one of our biggest strengths that's going to be this year for Kentucky is we have a lot of wings, a lot of guards, so when we get rebounds we're going to be able to just go," Knox said. "We don't have to find Quade (Green) or Shai (Gilgeous-Alexander) or a point guard to bring the ball up the court. We have people who can dribble the ball up and down the court. I think that's going to be one of our strengths this year."

And to anyone who doesn't think Knox can play guard, he plans on shutting out those doubters in a similar fashion to how he canceled out his haters.

"A lot of people say that I'm not a guard," Knox said. "A lot of people say that I'm going to play the 4, I'm not really capable of playing guard, but I just take that as fuel. I'm going to get in the gym, I'm gonna keep working. Cal wants me to be a guard, guard/forward. … All the people saying I can't do it, I'm going to keep working and make sure that I can do what they're saying I can't do."

Meet the Wildcats: Vanderbilt's 'inner dog,' leadership readies him rookie season

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Aug. 17, 2017

There's a certain something about Jarred Vanderbilt.

Whether it's his energy, his competitiveness, his confidence or just how comfortable he is in his own skin, Vanderbilt has an air about him that draws others to him.

To borrow a commonly used word from Kentucky head coach John Calipari, Vanderbilt is a "gatherer."

Off the court, he is often seen with a smile on his face. He also usually has a few people around him. He likes to joke around and have fun, but when it comes to basketball, he's able to flip a switch and change his mentality.

"I feel like I'm just a leader no matter what I do on and off the court," Vanderbilt said. "I try to motivate my guys and I try to build chemistry with everybody. You can ask anybody on the team, I've had conversations with all of them. I'm just trying to grow a bond. I feel like that will benefit us in the long run. By us having a bond off the court is going to translate over. That's my main goal."

The youngest of six kids, Vanderbilt said he used to get beat up and bullied by his siblings when he was growing up, but that's where his "inner dog" came from and he wouldn't have it any other way.

Playing basketball in the front yard, there were times – whether it be because he was getting blown out or perhaps caught an inadvertent elbow – Vanderbilt wanted to pack up and quit. Instead, his siblings pushed him to keep playing and over time he changed his attitude and mentality, which he carries with him today.

"On the court, (I'm) just a dog, a leader," Vanderbilt said. "Just trying to do everything for my team to win. That's the main thing with me, just winning. No matter how you do it, we just want to win. Who gets the credit doesn't really matter; just want to win."

In a bit of irony, considering Vanderbilt's gathering tendencies, many believed after Vanderbilt verbally committed to Kentucky just prior to Christmas that it marked the end of Kentucky's chances of acquiring Kevin Knox, a similar hybrid forward. Add in that Kentucky also had PJ Washington, a 6-foot-7 forward similarly capable of playing inside or out and handle the ball, and Knox coming to Kentucky seemed like a long shot.

Instead, it was Vanderbilt who reached out to Knox and told him to join them in the Bluegrass State.

"I felt like we had something special lined up," said Vanderbilt of his decision to reach out to Knox. "Of course we're similar, but we also have some differences in our game where we can play together as well. I can just imagine how much better I'm going to be just going against him and PJ in practice every day. So, that's the main thing for me. I feel like we can work it out, and just wanted to build a dynasty."

Coming from Houston, Vanderbilt attended Victory Prep, where academically he posted approximately a 3.7 grade-point average and athletically he averaged 28.5 points, 13.4 rebounds and 8.8 assists per game as a senior. It was a big season for Vanderbilt, who was injured the previous summer and began to fall a bit in the ever-popular recruiting rankings.

Vanderbilt kept that momentum rolling in the high school all-star games. After a quiet performance in the McDonald's All American Game, he scored a team-high tying 19 points on 8-of-12 shooting and grabbed 10 rebounds for the USA Junior National Select Team at the Nike Hoop Summit. He then started in the Jordan Brand Classic and scored 17 points on 8-of-14 shooting and grabbed seven boards.

"I feel like during the injury (the previous summer) I came back, put the work in and felt like I was in good shape," Vanderbilt said. "So, just my confidence was up there. And because I had been sitting out so long I felt like I needed to make a statement because I had pretty much been slept on for a while. I feel like me making those statements in those games did me a huge advantage."

Unfortunately, his performance at the Jordan Brand Classic was overshadowed by an ankle injury in the closing minutes of the game. The injury looked bad and the silence surrounding the injury was deafening, causing many to wonder just how bad it was.

"When I hurt my ankle (during the Jordan Brand Classic), I think the timing actually was good," Vanderbilt said. "You don't want nothing like that happening, but I think the timing was good when it happened. That was the last event so I was able to rest after, get ready for summer, get ready for the season. But it wasn't really that bad of an injury. It was all pretty good. We were just playing it cautious. I didn't have any other events left, so I just got rested, tried to get 100 percent and just prepared for the next level.

"I don't know if it was Jordan Brand just trying to keep it under wraps or what, but I was fine at the time. I guess they didn't have that much media coverage for the incident so the fans were worried, everybody was worried, but I was pretty good."

The rehab has gone well and he says he's now back to 100 percent and "good to go." Having gone through the rehab process before, Vanderbilt knew what to do and the patience and determination required to get back to full health.

The injuries have also given Vanderbilt a different vantage point of the game. He

says the entire process has been "a blessing in disguise," and he's learned more by watching on the sidelines and logging hours in the film room.

His time in the film room is but one example of his forward-thinking approach to the game. Around the time he was just an eighth grader, Vanderbilt began getting more attention and started to realize what basketball could do for him down the road. It was at that time that he shifted his focus to basketball exclusively (he had played some football and ran track) and started taking the game more seriously.

Since then, he's worked to treat his bodylike a pro, including his eating and training habits, and how he carries himself. He got a glimpse of what the future may hold when he was treated like a pro over the summer by all the young kids at Kentucky's various basketball camps.

"It puts a smile on my face just watching them have a smile and enjoy themselves," Vanderbilt said. "It's a great experience.

"When they want to come take pictures and autographs, it's still surreal. It's like, who am I? But no, it's great. We were at that age one day and we were the same way. It's a great feeling."

Many of the young kids Vanderbilt met surely dream of one day leading the Wildcats in scoring. One of Vanderbilt's goals at Kentucky is to lead the team in rebounding. In fact, the versatile forward said he wants to average double-digit boards.

It's a lofty goal considering, a) he's 6-9 and viewed by some as more of a wing, and b) only two players have averaged that many rebounds in a season in the Calipari era: Julius Randle and Anthony Davis.

"We're going to be fighting for the rebounds with each other more than the other team," Vanderbilt said. "I'd rather one of us knock it out of bounds than let the other team get it. We have a very competitive group so I feel like everybody's going to go after every rebound. It doesn't matter who gets it, we're going to be out in transition and we're laying it up."

The competitiveness of the game is what most endears Vanderbilt to it. He doesn't limit that to basketball though. On the ping pong table, he's "the current champion of the Lodge."

"We have tournaments almost every weekend," he said. "Need to go ahead and get a belt so everybody knows who the champion is."

Pair that competitive spirit with his traits of being a gatherer and you understand why he was trying to draw as many talented players to Kentucky as he could.

"I'm just a hard worker. That's been in me since I was young," Vanderbilt said. "Kevin is a great player and just me going against him every day, or whoever, PJ, Wenyen (Gabriel), all the other forwards, I feel like that's just going to make me better. Other places, I'm not saying the competition isn't as high, but you're not going against a five-star athlete every day in practice. I feel like that's an advantage you have coming here."

Meet the Wildcats: Forward-thinking Washington keeps high goals

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Aug. 24, 2017

At a young age, PJ Washington had a vision for himself. He got out a pen and paper and began writing everything down.
He wanted to be ranked as a high school prospect. Check.

He wanted to go to a prep school and compete against the top talent in the country. Check.

He wanted to be a McDonald's All-American and compete in the Jordan Brand Classic. Check.

He wanted to go to the University of Kentucky. Check.

Ever since John Wall suited up for the Wildcats during head coach John Calipari's first season at Kentucky in 2009-10, Washington has dreamed of rocking that Kentucky blue.

Washington was born just 80 miles down the road in Louisville. After a few months, he moved to St. Louis, Chicago and finally Dallas. Following his freshman year in high school, Washington moved to Las Vegas to attend Findlay Prep. His vision of being a Wildcat remained the same.

"I really didn't feel like I could go to any other school just because Kentucky is my favorite school and my dream school," Washington said in an exclusive interview with CoachCal.com. "Just growing up, I tried to work my hardest every day in the gym. Just grind, get better. And then once I got the offer, I knew I was going there."

Washington was born into a basketball family. His father, Paul, coached him at Findlay Prep, and ever since a young age PJ has always been infatuated with the game. He loves playing and being around basketball, and when he's watching basketball he gets an itch to step on the court and play himself.

A family oriented person, Washington had some tough times in Las Vegas. He was away from his family, for one, and more specifically, he was away from his younger brother, who had been diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

"My sophomore year I moved away, and he was like my best friend," Washington said of his younger brother. "So, it really was bad on him. I wasn't there to – not protect him, but advise him through stuff. So, he came here my junior year and he got diagnosed with Crohn's and he lost like 50 to 60 pounds and he was just struggling. Then this past year he was doing a lot better, gaining weight and just being able to play, and it was great playing with him and got him through the season.

"It was hard on me. I mean, that's my little brother. It was just hard to see him go through stuff like that. I just wanted to push myself even harder just to do most of my stuff for him."

And as a senior PJ enjoyed the best basketball experience of his young, yet impressive basketball life.

"I got to play with my younger brother and my dad was the coach. Then my mom was at every game and my little sister was there," Washington said. "It was just a family oriented thing, and I was just happy to have that opportunity."

Not that he wasn't playing well before – he was – but with everything going well off the court, Washington's play excelled even further on the court as a senior. Tabbed the No. 14 prospect in the nation by the Recruiting Services Consensus Index, Washington led the Pilots to at a 34-4 record and a place in the DICK's Sporting Goods High School National semifinals as a senior, averaging 19.6 points, 9.4 rebounds and 6.3 assists per game.

Standing 6-foot-7 with a bruising frame, Washington's versatility wowed college coaches and struck fear in opposing high school players. Put a smaller player on Washington and he'll back him down in the post. Put a bigger player on him and Washington will take him out to the perimeter and beat him with his speed. Add in that competitive fire he plays with and Washington becomes a not-so-fun matchup.

"Honestly, I'm just a competitive person. I hate losing in anything," Washington said. "Being able to win drives me. I like beating people in video games, Horse, anything. If it comes to anything – school work – I'm trying my best and I'm trying to beat my opponent."

Another thing that drives him is when his opponents don't get the message and think they can beat him.

"I just don't like people feeling like they're better than me," he said. "I like to step on the court and people are nervous trying to guard me and nervous going against me. I like being a bully, basically."

He says when his opponent pays him

a compliment on the court that he then knows he's gotten inside his head and "it's over from there."

Upon signing his letter of intent in November, Coach Cal called Washington an "alpha dog," and said he's a combination of former UK wings Trey Lyles and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, who is arguably the toughest, grittiest player of the Calipari era.

"I think it's great," Washington said of the comparison. "I mean, I like it. It's just a blessing to be in there with those guys. They're both doing great in the NBA right now. Just to be a part of that would be something special."

Washington's aggressive nature, coupled with his frame and athleticism, make him an ideal prospect for any head coach, but especially Calipari, who doesn't like to peg players in certain roles but would rather let them work to "become the best versions of themselves" and go from there. Positionless, to borrow a Calipari phrase, fits Washington well.

On a team like the 2017-18 Wildcats with so many other similarly versatile pieces, Washington also knows the potential is exciting.

"We're just versatile. We can play any position," Washington said of the latest UK roster. "We can play big, we can play small. We can run, we can rebound, we can do everything. It's going to be hard for teams to match up with us."

His own versatility came at a young age. A steady grower, Washington preferred shooting free-throw line jumpers at a young age before his father started coaching him and pushed him out to extend his range. In practice, he would constantly work on his ball handling, shooting and passing. The shooting drills, specifically, involved everything from midrange jumpers, to post moves and 3-pointers.

Traveling abroad with Coach Cal as part of the USA Men's Basketball U19 FIBA World Cup team, Washington displayed his wide array of skills en route to leading the team in scoring with 12.9 points and 5.1 rebounds per game. He recorded one double-double in Egypt and had back-to-back 20-point outings while hitting a combined 17 of 21 shots from the field.

With that experience under his belt, Washington feels like he enters his freshman campaign with a leg up on his fellow rookies and can help the team more as they all adjust to the college game and Calipari as a head coach.

"I just feel like I know a little bit more what it is going into it now," Washington said. "I have my mindset ready and I know what (Coach Cal) is going to say and what he wants."

And that knowledge could prove to be invaluable as the Wildcats will boast their youngest roster of the Calipari era. Despite that inexperience, Washington has continued to write out lofty goals for the upcoming season, including a Southeastern Conference and national championship.

"I feel like every day I keep pushing myself to be better," Washington said. "Eventually, I'll reach my goals, and so far it's been good."

Meet the Wildcats: Green aims to be best point guard in UK history

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Aug. 31, 2017

The Kentucky point guard lineage under head coach John Calipari is as impressive as any school or coach can boast of in the country.

Of course, this has been well documented before on countless occasions. But let's review it one more time:

There was John Wall, the first No. 1 NBA Draft pick in program history and owner of the second-most assists in school history. Eric Bledsoe, the No. 18 overall pick in 2010, played alongside Wall.

Following those two was Brandon Knight, a two-time Gatorade High School National Player of the Year who would go on to lead UK to the Final Four and be a lottery pick after one season.

Marquis Teague stepped in following Knight and helped the Wildcats raise their eighth national championship banner in school history in 2012.

Andrew Harrison started for Coach Cal for two years and lead Kentucky to back-to-back Final Four appearances. He handed out 3.77 assists per game for his career, which equates to the ninth-best career average in school history.

Tyler Ulis played alongside Harrison for one season and helped UK orchestrate the first 38-0 record in college basketball history. The following season, as a sophomore, Ulis broke the UK single-season assists record and became a Consensus First Team All-American.

Last season, De'Aaron Fox took the reins and led Kentucky to an Elite Eight appearance. He became the second player in program history to record a triple-double and was drafted fifth overall by the Sacramento Kings.

In steps Quade Green, a 6-foot floor general out of Philadelphia who respects all the UK point guards who came before him but wants to leave being known as the best of them all.

"That's my main goal right now," Green said in an exclusive interview with CoachCal.com. "That's if I do four years, three years, two years or one year. I'm trying to be the best player I can be and better than everybody that came through here as a guard."

In terms of having high individual goals, it doesn't get much higher than to one day be better than all of those guys.

"Gotta set it high," Green said.

His favorite Kentucky guard to watch?

Wall.

"He had the most swag on the team and they were winning and everybody loved it," Green said. "And I loved it too when I was young."

The former Kentucky point guard Green is most often compared to, though, is Ulis. Many of those comparisons come from the two guards' heights, but they also share a similar mentality.

Green is three inches taller than the famously short Ulis, but because almost all of Calipari's other point guards at UK were 6-3 or taller, Ulis and Green tend to stand out for their diminutive nature.

They also both share a similar, hard-nosed, unselfish, winning attitude. Ulis, of course, didn't care who he was going up against. In a pickup game at the Joe Craft Center he got into an argument with 6-11 DeMarcus Cousins. During the SEC Tournament, he had to be separated from Auburn's 7-2 center Trayvon Reed.

Green likes to have fun on the court – it's part of his persona – but after playing on the courts in Philadelphia, where he won four state titles at Neumann-Goretti High School, he knows when it's time to get serious and buckle down. After all, this is the same town that booed Santa Claus and Green said he's heard Philly players booed by their own mothers.

"That's where I got my toughness from. Just Philly, period," Green said. "These guys on the basketball court, you know what's about to happen. Either you're going to play tough or you're going to get kicked off the court."

Ulis moved to Chicago from Lima, Ohio, to play a more competitive brand of basketball. There, he caught the eye of Coach Cal, who was initially hesitant to take such a diminutive point guard. Green also watched Ulis with admiration.

"Tyler is a tough matchup," Green said. "He came here and he produced. He put up good numbers and they won – both years he was here. I just want to do my job and be better than him. Be better than all guards that came through here."

Green's confidence isn't a knock to the

past. To the contrary, it's an acknowledgment of the high bar set by those who came before him. He knows that in order to carry that torch, he has to set goals that exceed expectations.

On the court, Green says he is a mix between a pit bull and a great dane. He's "feisty like a pit bull," but has a big heart, like a great dane.

Off the court, he likes to have fun with his teammates. During grueling summer workouts with strength and conditioning coach Rob Harris, Green could be seen having fun and enjoying himself with his new family.

For many people, there's a line between having a competitive spirit and having fun. Green, to his credit, likes to do both at the same time.

"I'm a little guy," he said. "I'm not 6-8 like everybody else (on the team). I just make my life happier, more joyful and my team to love me the way I love them. I would say I'm just a comedian at some point in time doing any drill, any workout, but I'm competitive at the same time.

"I just see it on the floor as having fun. God put me here for a reason. I'm blessed to be on the basketball court so I'm just going to use all my power and all my will."

Green contends that, on the basketball court, if you're going to play at a high level you have to have confidence, cockiness and an attitude all bundled into one package. Calipari has always said he wants his players to play with a swagger, which Green certainly has, and Green says Calipari has it as well.

"I'd say he's got that south Philly, Italian swag, really," Green said of his new coach. "He's just nice and smooth with it. Hair is smooth, how he talks to people. Everything's polite but if you do something wrong he's going to tell you. He's going to be honest with you. That's what, really, Cal is about. If he sees something wrong he's going to tell you. If he sees something right he's going to tell you. He's not scared to say anything to nobody."

Nor is Green.

A vocal leader, Green isn't afraid to bark out instructions to any of his teammates, and he expects the same in return.

"They want somebody to tell them what's right from wrong," Green said. "Same as me. If I tell them right from wrong they got respect for me."

On a team lacking experience, he will be counted on as one of the on-court leaders for this young group, despite his freshman status, and strives to be an extension of Coach Cal on the floor. Green confidently said he was the leader for the team the moment he stepped foot on campus, but it will still take time for he and everyone else to adjust to everything at the college level.

"It's going to be hard for a couple of months, I would say, because everybody is new to it," Green said. "It's just my job that after Cal speaks I can speak. After that, I'm the vocal leader on the basketball court other than Cal."

Sounds similar to many other point guards who have played at Kentucky.

History suggests Wenyen Gabriel will come up swinging after getting knocked down as a freshman

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Oct. 2, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — On Dec. 12, 2015, two Sudanese refugees who also happened to be 5-star basketball recruits squared off in a high school gym in Lexington with John Calipari in the audience. The Kentucky basketball coach learned all he needed to know about one of them that night.

Thon Maker, a chiseled 7-foot-1 center, was bigger than Wenyen Gabriel, a wispy 6-9 forward. Maker, who would go straight from prep school to the NBA a few months later and be drafted 10th overall, was also better.

He bullied Gabriel in the first half and Maker's team led by six points late in the second. Reminded of this recently, Gabriel interrupted: "You watched the whole game, right?" He grinned, knowing how this story ends.

Gabriel reeled off 11 consecutive points — matching Maker's 24 for the game — and led his team to a dramatic come-from-behind victory. He conducted a postgame interview through two split lips that could not hide his joy.

"I can just remember him being at the free-throw line at the end and looking over at me and smiling," said Mike Mannix, Gabriel's former coach at Wilbraham & Monson Academy in Massachusetts. "He's got blood all over his teeth and he's smiling. It was like, 'Don't worry, I got you.'"

Gabriel loves that story, because it perfectly captures who he wants to be: You might push me down — a few times even. You might bloody my lip — or even both. But you'll never keep me down.

He draws on that story now, after a disappointing freshman season at Kentucky and on the cusp of his sophomore year, as he hopes to recreate it on a much larger scale and stage. The Wildcats need him to, because Gabriel is the team's only player with more than 40 total points in his college basketball career.

Consider Calipari's opening sentence in an all-encompassing preseason Q&A session with reporters: "First of all, Wenyen is playing way better, thank God. He's not the same guy he was a year ago."

While Gabriel started 23 games for Kentucky last season and hit some real high notes — 16 rebounds against Auburn, 23 points against LSU, a 12-game stretch during which he shot 43.2 percent from 3-point range — he fizzled at the end. He scored a total of 20 points in the final 14 games, including just a single point in four NCAA Tournament games.

"My body gave up on me," Gabriel told SEC Country. "So, when the season ended, I focused on my body. Confidence is a big thing for me, too, so I've been focusing on that, remaining positive. I'm coming into this year with a different plan. I feel like a lot of people don't know what type of player I really am."

He would like to direct any doubters to the second half of his showdown with Maker.

"That is basically what you guys are going to see," said Gabriel, whose muscled-up offseason workout photos went viral this summer. "You saw me get pushed down at the end of last year, but now you're going to see the second half this year."

He will pick himself up and press on — fight back — because he must. Gabriel was born in war-torn Sudan in 1997 and his family fled to Egypt when he was a baby, then the United States when he was a toddler. He helped his mother learn English and study to become a nursing assistant.

"I think my conversation with my mom [after last season] was one of the biggest change-makers," Gabriel said. "She just really reminded me who I was. She spoke about where we are from. And she told me not to worry about what was happening last year. She just reminded me, 'You're still my son. I love you.' And just reminded me about the family, what she's doing, how she's working and how she never gave up — so I have no reason to give up."

One of Calipari's favorite ways to get to know a recruit and form a connection is to ask, "What's your why?" In other words: What drives you to succeed? Mannix was in the room when Calipari asked Gabriel that question two years ago.

"I remember Wenyen's pretty well," he said. "It was the South Sudan and him trying to help — his family that's still there and all the people that he shares a bond with there — any way he can. It's important to him to make it for them. That was his why. And I remember Coach Cal telling me, 'That's one of the best whys I've ever

heard.'"

Gabriel said he wakes up each day with two thoughts: First, instead of a soldier stuck in a never-ending civil war in Africa, he's a basketball star at Kentucky, so "what's there to be mad about?" Second, don't waste it.

"That's what really pushes me: the things that I could do. It's not what I've been through or what I've already done," he said. "When I wake up, what really keeps me pushing is what I can be."

On Calipari's youngest team yet — eight freshmen, three sophomores and zero juniors or seniors — Gabriel is the only player who comes close to qualifying as a "veteran." It is a roster full of (albeit 5-star) fresh faces and question marks, plus one guy who has already gotten up from enough knockdowns for his former coach to know what's coming next.

"Improvement," Mannix predicted. "It's difficult and probably unfair to try to quantify that, but improvement. I wouldn't be surprised if it's significant improvement, but I would bet my house that we will see progress. The change that's taken place in him physically shows me that he's probably driven more than ever because of the challenges of last season.

"The player that I know, giving him more motivation is a scary thing for the opposition."

University of Kentucky encourages basketball players to speak out on social issues

By: Fletcher Page | Courier Journal | Oct. 2, 2017

START TO BUILD YOUR BRAND. HAVE FUN. SMILE.

That's what it said in all caps, in bold, at the bottom of a piece of paper carried by some Kentucky Wildcats basketball players to media interviews in August.

"Interview Talking Points for Today," was the title at the top.

The Courier-Journal obtained a copy (because a player left it in plain sight).

Here are two things the players were instructed not to discuss. They're in bold, too, with a proper escape route away from each subject included.

"No 40-0 talk: We want to win every game we play, but right now we are just focused on getting better each and every day as individuals and as a team."

"No talk about leaving for the NBA after this year: We'll worry about that after the season. I'm just focused on doing what I can to help this team win and be the best version of myself. After the season is over with, me and my family will sit down with Coach Cal and evaluate where we're at."

Good call, Kentucky.

The last thing a fan mulling a pre-emptive 40-0 national champs tattoo needs is Kevin Knox or Wenyen Gabriel quote-fueling the fire. And yeah, old-school fans probably don't need talk of another one-and-done player leaving to get paid shoved in their face.

The document includes another good call by Kentucky and coach John Calipari.

Middle of the page, the paper reads: "On the current social issues and political landscape, we are NOT going to tell you not to answer these or to express your opinion. Some things are bigger than basketball, and the current landscape is."

And people claim Calipari can only recruit and can't coach. You may roll your eyes about the "development of young people" aspect of college athletics (which I agree is often second on the list behind the final score), but Calipari gets this 100 percent correct.

Not only does he tell his guys they can speak their mind (something that could lead to controversial press or distractions for the player and program), he provides the tools to do so productively.

The handout continues:

"With that said, if you are going to state your opinion, please ...

"1. Be ready to own what you say and understand there are consequences. That doesn't mean you're going to get in trouble with the team or anything like that; just know that, right or wrong, whatever you say, someone likely won't agree with it or will have a different opinion.

"2. Be educated about what you're talking about. If you're going to have an opinion about something, know the facts."

Educated. Opinion. Facts. Own what you say. Consequences.

Roll your eyes again if you must, but it's not all talk about pick-and-roll defense and more effort in rebounding at Kentucky.

These are young men who can vote, who have eyes and ears and experiences. They have thoughts and a voice and many people, younger and older, idolize them.

Calipari and Kentucky certainly don't want talk of an undefeated season or the NBA to deal with. Those are on-court issues and unnecessary distractions. But almost everything else going on in the world is bigger than basketball, and Calipari isn't afraid to let his players be themselves. In the sometimes control-crazed atmosphere of college athletics, where coaches make millions and players (following NCAA rules) are not fairly compensated, this is the way it should be done.

"I may not agree with everything or how they choose to let their feelings be known, but if it's educated, if they understand the risk, they understand the consequences, I'll be with them," Calipari said in August.

Calipari often has discussions with his team about social issues and history. Before last season, Calipari said he talked with his players about domestic violence. About abusive relationships. About managing money. About sound business investments.

This August, Calipari discussed the Civil War with players ("A little disappointed they didn't know more," Calipari said. "What in the world?"). He said a talk about athletes around the country choosing not to stand for the anthem would happen before the season began.

"You need to talk to me. Tell me what you think," Calipari told his players. "You educate me, I'll educate you and we'll talk about it.

"Don't be at the front of the line because they want you at the front of the line because of your name. Educate yourself. What are they protesting? Do I agree with what they're protesting? Is everything involved in this what I agree with? What are the consequences if I do this act? If I break windows is it worth me going to jail? Is there another way I can make it known? Is there another way to protest? Is there another way to get my point across?"

Here's how Kentucky's approach works: PJ Washington is a freshman in his first months on campus as a college student. I asked him if he felt comfortable with his elevated platform and if there was anything in the news or about society he wanted to discuss or shed light on.

He either didn't want to give his opinion or wasn't ready to give his opinion. So he did what his coach and the piece of paper said to do.

"For right now, I'm just focusing on basketball and just trying to get better every day," he said. "I really haven't been paying attention to most of that stuff, so I'm really not up to date with all that stuff."

I asked Wenyen Gabriel a similar question. He's a sophomore, with 12 months of experiences with all that comes with the Kentucky spotlight.

"Just seeing my impact in the community is crazy," Gabriel said. "I mean, I go to the park, I'll help out with the little kids, go to their schools. I have a big role in my community back at home. Not a lot of people — nobody really ever from New Hampshire goes to Kentucky, those type of schools. So I look back at the things I do, I have inspired

a lot of people at home."

Karl-Anthony Towns, the 21-year-old Minnesota Timberwolves star who likely read a similar talking-points handout and listened to Calipari's talks during his only season at Kentucky, expressed his views in August.

Towns wrote an essay published on The Players' Tribune that ripped President Donald Trump's response to the events in Charlottesville, Virginia, that led to the deaths of 32-year-old Heather Heyer and two Virginia state troopers, Berke Bates and Jay Cullen.

Later in the month at the Kentucky basketball alumni charity game, he wore shoes customized with the message "Love trumps hate" and the word "racism" crossed out by a red circle and line.

"I think everyone thinks we're athletes so our intellectual capacity is not enough to understand topics (or) we're not capable to fully explain feelings, what you feel about the topics," Towns said after the game. "But that's not true."

He gave his opinion. He owned it. He provided facts. And, reading the Facebook, Twitter and Courier-Journal reader comments, there were differing opinions.

Some agreed (examples: "congrats on your success. You are an excellent representative of UK." ... "I am a diehard UofL fan but I applaud KAT.").

And some disagreed (examples: "Screw you. You are an athlete paid to play a game. Who cares about your political opinions." ... "UK has some alums and fans to be proud of- between a clueless Towns and a complete idiot in Ashley Judd, neither have an IQ that exceeds single digits").

Calipari said he supported Towns' decision to make his stance and opinions public because of the way the message was delivered.

"I liked it, (liked) reading it because it was thoughtful," Calipari said. "I liked it because he had an opinion that was an educated opinion. There were people probably read it that didn't agree. There were people who agreed. People really happy, probably people really mad. So he has an opinion, but it was an educated opinion, it was well-thought-out, and it made you think. It was good."

And so, too, is Kentucky's policy to allow players to speak their mind, support causes and speak up, for or against, issues in their community or the country or the world.

Near the end of the sheet, it says: "YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO. Just be honest."

Wall's UK legacy lives on in freshman class

By: Guy Ramsey | UK Athletics | Oct. 2, 2017

The Big Blue Nation remembers it like it was yesterday.

John Calipari was UK's newly named head coach. John Wall – along with DeMarcus Cousins and Eric Bledsoe – was has prime recruiting target. With no games on the schedule for another seven months, UK fans got their basketball fix by going to YouTube and doing some scouting of potential future Wildcats.

That's when they found a mixtape. You know, that mixtape.

Eight years later, the video – published April 12, 2009 – has more than nine million views and is in the conversation for the best basketball mixtape of all time.

To hear the newest generation of Wildcat stars tell it, there's not even an argument.

"His high-school mixtape?" Jemarl Baker said. "Oh my goodness. To me he has the best mixtape all time. Blocking shots, 360 layups, dunks. It was definitely crazy."

For UK fans, there was something captivating about the mixtape. It created the possibility that, maybe for the first time ever, Kentucky could have the coolest player in the country. It reinforced their belief that their program was back where it belonged. For the group of freshmen UK fans will cheer on this season, it was captivating for another reason.

Put yourselves in their shoes back in 2009: You're 9 or 10 years old and basketball is your life. You have dreams of dominating in high school, playing your way into a big-time scholarship and heading to the NBA. Every day you imagine yourself at the park or in the backyard pulling off the craziest moves.

Then there's John Wall on your computer screen, doing everything you wish you could. It's no wonder it stuck with them.

"We watched it and we just fell in love," PJ Washington said. "We fell in love with him and the program."

Washington is one of eight members of UK's freshman class for the 2017-18 season. Coach Cal gets the credit for landing his latest highly touted group, but it's fitting that his first UK point guard ever gets an assist for making a first impression on nearly all of them.

"That's the reason I fell in love with UK is John Wall," Washington said. "When he first came here, when I was in like the fourth grade, he was doing his little dance and everything and I just fell in love with the program after that."

Seven of UK's eight freshmen named Wall as their favorite Wildcat of all time, with Anthony Davis getting Nick Richards' vote and sharing the distinction with Wall for Jarred Vanderbilt. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander says he models his game after Wall. Quade Green first began following the program when he took a picture with Wall at UK .

Washington and Baker, however, were superfans of the 2009-10 team as a whole.

"They were just exciting," Baker said. "Very exciting. For them to have him, DeMarcus and Bledsoe, all of the great players. Just the way they played. They ran, they threw no-look passes, they threw lobs. They had fun. It was just great to watch."

Washington says he watched "at least 15 or 20" games that season. And just like the fans who will cheer him on this season, he still thinks about that Elite Eight loss to West Virginia.

"I remember how good Eric Bledsoe was, Patrick Patterson, DeMarcus Cousins," Washington said. "I mean, John Wall just ran by everybody. It was great. I just wanted to be a part of it. I used to fantasize about being a Kentucky player."

That dream has now come true.

"When I first got a text message from the University of Kentucky I was just shocked," Washington said. "I was happy. They asked me if I was interested and I said definitely. I wanted to come here. I feel like I was always going to come here. It was a goal of mine. I'm just blessed to be here."

The newest crop of Wildcats is a few months into their UK journey. So far, reality is matching the dream that started watching Wall wear the Blue and White.

"It's actually everything I thought it was going to be," Baker said. "Because I followed Kentucky basketball, like all of the top teams, for a long time. I know how they get treated and stuff like that, as far as fan support and stuff like that. So just for me, it was everything that I wanted."

The one thing Baker and his classmates likely didn't even think to want was to belong to the same fraternity as Wall. Though Wall's list of accomplishments is a little longer and now includes being named a UK Athletics Hall of Famer, the freshmen now automatically share a brotherhood with him.

"I have a lot of these guys' numbers, and I always tell these guys, I'm a regular person just like y'all, I just have an opportunity to be at the highest level where you're trying to reach; be a franchise guy for an NBA team, or just be an NBA player," Wall said at his Hall of Fame induction in Septem-

ber. "But any type of advice they need of understanding what college basketball is about, what Coach Cal is all about, I try to tell these guys."

Wall, you see, remembers more than the highlight-reel plays he made as a Wildcat. He remembers that things weren't always easy, just as they won't be for those following in his footsteps.

"I just like to teach these guys and tell them what they're going to go through," Wall said. "They're going to go through adversity. Even though we started off winning so many games. You probably remember the conversation when I was like, 'I'm not having fun right now.' Coach Cal was like, 'How you not having fun?'

"It wasn't that I was worried about the team's success, it was like, OK, I'm not playing well right now, was it too much pressure for me to deal with of trying to do this and do that and then try to lead a team at 18 years old, something I never had to deal with. That can get tough on people at times and it's something that Coach Cal, my family and my friends and teammates I had helped keep me level-headed and keep me under control."

Wall came to Kentucky a mixtape star and left having built relationships that will last a lifetime. That, more than anything else, is what he wants for these newest Wildcats.

"I think the most important thing is we all come back," Wall said. "We don't ever just be like, 'Forget Kentucky. We just came to do this and leave.' We come and we build a family here. It's all a brotherhood."

Wildcats travel the world over the summer

By: Metz Camfield |CoachCal.com | Oct. 2, 2017

It was a summer to remember for the Kentucky men's basketball team.

From games and trips to in Egypt, Croatia, Greece, Israel, England and Zimbabwe, to pickup games with LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Carmelo Anthony, the Wildcats did a little bit of everything during their time away from campus.

For PJ Washington, Hamidou Diallo, Tai Wynyard, as well as head coach John Calipari, this summer included a trip to Cairo, home of the 2017 FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup. That meant an opportunity to see the pyramids, ride camels and, of course, hoop.

"I never thought I would be in Egypt one day," Washington said. "It was great seeing the pyramids, just being able to play for my country there and I was just excited to get back to here and get started with everything."

Washington was Team USA's leading scorer at the World Cup, averaging 12.9 points per game, and was third on the team in rebounds at 5.1 rebounds per game. Diallo averaged 10.9 points, 3.9 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game for USA in Cairo. He led USA in scoring in its opener again Iran, finishing with 17 points on 7-of-9 shooting.

Wynyard, playing for his home country of New Zealand, averaged 14.3 points and 9.3 rebounds per game. The 6-foot-10 forward notched a double-double in each of his final three games at the tournament, averaging 16.3 points and 12.0 rebounds during that stretch. He finished the seven-game event as New Zealand's leader in points, rebounds and blocks (2.0 per game).

"I think I played pretty well but I could have done a lot better," the redshirt sophomore said. "I didn't finish as much as I wanted to. I was pretty efficient, but I didn't make some of the shots I think I should have. Obviously, if some of them had gone down the whole tournament would have been different for us because we only ended up losing – every game we lost, we only lost by like four points. … I mean, it was a lot of fun in that tournament. I learned a lot and had a lot of fun."

They weren't the only Wildcats to play overseas. Brad Calipari and Sacha Killeya-Jones also got some international ball under their belts this summer.

Brad traveled to Croatia with Global Sports Academy where he played four games against professional teams from the region. The sophomore guard opened play with 17 points, seven assists and four rebounds and finished the trip averaging 14.3 points, 6.5 assists and 3.3 boards per game. He said he used the trip to work on his play running the point and getting others involved.

"I think I played pretty well," he said. "I could have shot the ball a little bit better, but that's everywhere I go. You can always do something better. But I think handling the ball I did well. I played point guard over there the majority of the time. I really focused on getting guys involved and making sure guys were satisfied with how they were playing. I think that was a big part of what I was trying to do, and give myself confidence."

Killeya-Jones, also a sophomore, accepted an invitation to attend Great Britain's national training camp for the FIBA EuroBasket 2017. Eligible to play for Great Britain thanks to his British-born mother, Killeya-Jones played against Greece and in two tournaments in Greece and Poland, as well as a friendly against Israel.

"It was an awesome experience," he said. "I got to go Greece, Israel and London, England. It was my first time over in Europe, over there. Just seeing everything was cool, but basketball wise I was playing against all pros the whole time so it was just great to play against grown men. The game is a little bit slower over there, but they're a lot more technical. So I learned a lot of just little things as far as rotations, help-side defenses – lot of little technical things, cuts and stuff like that, that you don't do over here that they're really good at over there."

And when he got back home, Killeya-Jones – like many of his other teammates who spent time overseas – was happy to get his hands on some American cuisine.

"I'm a picky eater so it was tough," Killeya-Jones said. "I ordered a lot of burgers. Lot of burgers.

"I missed Waffle House the most. That's something I don't really eat it, but when I get a craving for Waffle House – it's not in Europe. That was tough."

Back stateside, Diallo and Nick Richards, who are both natives of New York, were working out in their home state when they were presented with the opportunity to play some pickup ball with a few of the best players on the planet.

"The guy that me and Hami work out with in New York, he actually trains a lot of pro guys and they wanted to have a pickup game and didn't have enough players to play a pickup game," Richards explained.

Lining up across and beside guys like James, Durant and Anthony was a sight to see, but both UK freshmen felt they held their own in the grand scheme of things, and both said they did so without any nerves.

"I don't really get nervous," Diallo said. "Once we're on the court it's like we're all basketball players at that point. We were just playing and competing. It was a great experience. I learned a lot just from that day.

"I think I played well. Definitely nobody knew who I was coming in – like LeBron and KD – and they knew who I was leaving."

Junior guard Jonny David didn't play overseas, but he did have one of the more unique experiences on the team when he visited Zimbabwe on a family vacation. There, he saw elephants, lions and cheetahs in the wild while going on safari trips. He also visited Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the world.

"I've been to a lot of places, as far as historical places, like sightseeing, that kind of stuff. My dad, that's what he wants to do with us while me and my brothers are all home and have a chance. And South Africa was always on his list to go to, so he finally pulled the trigger and we went. It was really

nice, really nice.

"That was one of the most unique ones I've been on, for sure."

Now the Wildcats are back on campus and the season begins in less than two weeks with Big Blue Madness at Rupp Arena. The summer was fun, but now it's about putting in the work for what they hope is another special season.

"It's going to be fun," Richards said. "It's going to be real fun."

Hamidou Diallo says no game experience, no problem for UK's would-be leader

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 3, 2017

A Kentucky team leader who has never played a college game? Hamidou Diallo acknowledges how illogical that sounds.

"Yeah, definitely," he said. "It's kind of a weird situation."

But lead this season Diallo intends to do. Although a redshirt freshman with one semester of practice in his entire UK career to date, he is a relative graybeard on this team.

"I'm somewhat a freshman," he said. "Then again, I'm not. I'm just happy in the position that I'm in: to lead these guys. Coach (John Calipari) has given me the leadership role. I feel like it's really big. And I've taken it since Day One and just tried to become a better leader."

Along with freshman point guard Quade Green, Calipari sees Diallo as a team leader. Diallo defined leadership as holding teammates accountable and spurring them to give their best. It can involve what diplomats like to call a frank exchange of views.

Of Green's fitness to lead, Diallo said, "He's a PG (point guard) and he's as vocal as me. And he speaks his mind. He lets everybody know they have to get it in gear."

Although he has yet to play a college game, Diallo is experienced as a leader. He said he has led teams in the past.

"I just feel it's the type of person I am," he said. "I'm very vocal, and I speak my mind. ... That's just always how I've been, and that hasn't really changed."

Diallo did play this past summer for the United States team in the U19 World Cup. He averaged 10.9 points, 3.9 rebounds and 18.4 minutes.

Calipari, who coached the U19 team, also had UK freshman PJ Washington among his players.

"Most of it is getting in great shape," Calipari said of the potential benefits of the U19 experience. "Most of it is (learning that) every possession matters, and you can't act like stuff doesn't matter."

Recruiting scouts thought Diallo looked bored in his fall semester at Putnam Science Academy, perhaps a reason he opted to come to UK at semester break and get a head start on college.

Calipari suggested that he was looking ahead to this season and the incoming high school class of 2017 when he agreed to Diallo being a practice player.

"I thought 'Hami' was important for this class because of his athleticism and his ability to get to the basket," Calipari said.

Diallo came to Kentucky with a reputation for being an ultra athlete who needed to polish his basketball skills. Diallo flashed his athleticism with a 44.5-inch vertical leap at the NBA Combine. It was the second-highest leap ever recorded there.

Combining this athleticism with a 6-foot-5, 198-pound frame makes Diallo seem like a candidate to be Kentucky's defensive stopper. Perhaps he can be a latter-day DeAndre Liggins.

"He has the athleticism (and) the length," Calipari said. "As a matter of fact, he's bigger than DeAndre. He doesn't have the discipline. But I'd imagine neither did DeAndre early."

The polished skills will be on display this season, Diallo said.

"I would say, right now, from the last time people have seen me play, I'm a totally different player," he said. "My skill set has gotten much better, and my shot has gotten much better. ... I'm a full, complete basketball player. I'm not just an athlete.

Brad Calipari sees his place on UK basketball team as earned, not given

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 5, 2017

Brad Calipari apparently wanted to get something off his chest. And, maybe more precisely, on his chest.

So in the summer of 2016 he got a tattoo. Its message is as clear as its bold, block lettering at the top of his chest. It reads: Earned, Not Given.

As the son of Kentucky Coach John Calipari, Brad Calipari is keenly aware of what his status as a UK walk-on implies.

"You know, so many people think when I came here, it was a free handout I took," he said. "I could have gone to a couple other places. ... But I came here because I felt this was my best opportunity to get better. And I felt last year I did get better."

As a freshman, he played sparingly. The improvement came in the daily practices, where only program insiders can see and appreciate incremental advances.

"In the beginning, it was tough," Brad Calipari said of his improvement. "But once you get in the flow of things, you get your confidence up."

Of course, the competition can be fierce. An aphorism seems to apply: A rising tide lifts all boats. Even one navigated by the son of the coach is no exception.

"Going against lottery picks every day, the top five picks, really helps you," he said. "It forces you to get better. I think I got better a lot quicker than I imagined.

"My dad sees my strides and tells me how proud he is of me. And that helps me with my confidence, too."

Of his parents' reaction to the tattoo, Brad Calipari said, "They really didn't say too much. They say, why did you get a tattoo?"

Something else expressed the similar "earned" sentiment this season, albeit with less permanence than a tattoo. Brad Calipari played for a team in the Global Sports Academy competition in Croatia.

He averaged 14.3 points, 6.5 assists and 3.3 rebounds for a team that won three of its four games.

The competition was not at Kentucky's level, he acknowledged.

"Nobody's driving by you and dunking on you," he said, "or blocking shots at the top of the square."

While the games in Croatia were more earth-bound, there were competitive challenges. Just different challenges, he said.

Brad Calipari said he played point guard for his team. He came UK known primarily for his shooting ability.

"I tried to get guys involved," he said, "and I felt I did that pretty well. Making sure everyone is satisfied. And if I have an open shot, take it. That's one of my top skills. I can't pass that up."

As with teammate Jemarl Baker and uncounted players elsewhere, Brad Calipari resists the label of a shooter. It connotes a player that is one dimensional. At a time when so-called positionless players are coveted, a player known for a specific skill seems to be of limited value.

"I can shoot the ball well," he said before adding, "but it's not the only aspect to my game."

Killeya-Jones ready to bounce back from 'humbling' freshman season

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 6, 2017

It happens just often enough to be familiar. Ballyhooed prospect (does Kentucky have any other kind?) makes a modest impact as a freshman. Then everybody always has the same question: what happened?

"I'm not really sure," said Sacha Killeya-Jones, who fit this storyline last season.

Killeya-Jones came to Kentucky as a McDonald's All-American. His high school senior season included 13 games in which he scored 20 or more points and grabbed 10 or more rebounds. Rivals, ESPN, 247 Sports and Scout.com all rated him a top-30 national prospect.

Then as a UK freshman, Killeya-Jones did not play after Jan. 21, did not score after Jan. 7 and made only one basket after Dec. 11.

As UK Coach John Calipari likes to point out, players progress at different rates. Kentucky is synonymous with one-and-done players, but some celebrated recruits need more time to become viable NBA prospects: the Harrison twins played two college seasons, Alex Poythress played four, in part because of injury. Some choose to turn pro in spite of, rather than because of, their freshman seasons: Skal Labissiere and Daniel Orton come immediately to mind.

When asked about Killeya-Jones, Calipari offered a handful of possible reasons the player averaged 2.7 points, 2.1 rebounds and 6.4 minutes in 15 games. Only walk-ons Jonny David and Dillon Pulliam played in fewer games.

What held Killeya-Jones back?

"He's young," Calipari said. "His age. He's now the age of a freshman." Killeya-Jones turned 19 on Aug. 10.

"This is all new to him," Calipari said a moment later. "Inexperience."

"Bam was better than him," Calipari said in reference to one-and-done Bam Adebayo.

"We went to a small lineup, so I wasn't playing two of those 'bigs' together," Calipari said.

Then there was the thought that Killeya-Jones needed to grin and bear knee tendinitis. Of handling discomfort this preseason, the player was doing "way better," Calipari said.

Then there was the psychic pain of falling behind other ballyhooed freshmen. "It happened to Wenyen (Gabriel)," Calipari said. "Every game is on national television. All of a sudden, you shoot three air balls. And all of a sudden, 'Oh my God, I can't play.'" Players must build their own self confidence, the UK coach said.

Killeya-Jones said he watched film this offseason and tried to see why he did not make a bigger impact. When asked what he discovered, he said, "You've got to go hard all the time. (And) you've got to be patient. You can't really force anything. You can't try to do too much."

Although he wasn't playing, Killeya-Jones said there was a "click in" late in the season. The inference was there would be a carryover into this season.

"Feeling my role," he said of the click in. "Just playing how I need to play instead of trying to force things and trying to do too much. So just playing simply and slowing the game down."

Killeya-Jones expressed gratitude for the support of UK fans "even when things weren't going great." The same was true for teammates, especially seniors Derek Willis, Dominique Hawkins and Mychal Mulder.

Calipari offered wise counsel. "The conversations were all really good," Killeya-Jones said. "I think every time we had a conversation, I improved after that."

Calipari's advice included participating in the tryouts for the Great Britain National Team that would be playing the FIBA Euro Basket event. Killeya-Jones' mother, Ley, is a native of England.

The end result is a Killeya-Jones who feels transformed going into the 2017-18 season.

"Yeah, definitely," he said. "Confidence-wise, I feel (like) a whole different person. On the court it's a whole different player, for real."

Killeya-Jones acknowledged that he did not make real his high hopes for last season. From what he called a "good learning experience" came a greater appreciation for the virtue of patience.

"It was really humbling …," he said. "I had to learn to kind of sit back and just work and not give up on a situation like that. And just come back ready."

When it comes to basketball, heady UK forward says mom might know best

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 11, 2017

Don't tell anyone, but PJ Washington passed along some delicate information about how both his parents played for Middle Tennessee State.

"My mom was a little bit better than my dad," he said before adding, "but my dad will never admit that."

The facts are on the side of the Kentucky freshman and his mother.

His mother, then known as Sherry Tucker, made the All-Ohio Valley Conference first team as a senior. She still ranks 14th on the Middle Tennessee women's career scoring list. She scored 1,452 points, and averaged 20.8 points in her senior season of 1994-95.

When asked if he had seen film of his mother or father play, Washington said, he hadn't. "But I played a lot of H-O-R-S-E games with them," he said. "My mom could really shoot it. I could tell she wasn't lying about (her ability)."

In her four seasons for Middle Tennessee, Sherry made 182 three-point shots. Her high school retired her jersey.

As for Washington's father, whose name is Paul, he played two seasons for Middle Tennessee State. He averaged 8.3 points as a junior and 7.3 points as a senior. He was a versatile player, getting time at every position except center, during a time when the men's program was in a rebuilding phase.

"He's a bit of a bruiser," Washington said of his father. "From Day One, they instilled basketball in my life, and I'm just happy they did that. Happy to call them my parents."

Washington — his name is Paul Jamine, but he goes by the initials PJ — came to Kentucky with a reputation for being a smart, fundamentally sound player. He has been likened to Chuck Hayes, who played for UK from 2001 through 2005. This comparison is a mystery to Washington.

"Honestly, I've never seen him play," he said of Hayes. Upon reflection, Washington said he did a facsimile of Hayes playing on a video game.

Hayes contributed in multiple ways. He scored 1,211 points for UK. He also led the Cats in rebounding three separate seasons (the only other UK players to do that are Sam Bowie, Rick Robey, Dan Issel and Cotton Nash).

Hayes, a member of the UK Athletics Hall of Fame, also gave his teams a steadying presence on the court and a player who mastered defensive positioning.

When asked to describe his playing style, Washington said, "I feel like I'm versatile. Like I can do a lot of things on the court. I'm aggressive. I love to win. I love to get my teammates involved. And I do anything a coach wants me to do to win."

UK Coach John Calipari cautioned against putting too much faith in the Washington-Hayes comparison.

"Chuck had a bigger body, just a wide frame kind of guy," Calipari said.

UK lists Washington at 6-foot-7 and 236

pounds. It was another measurement that apparently made an impression on Calipari.

"You know your arms are supposed to be the same as your height . . . ," the UK coach said. "His are a plus 8 inches. It is so ridiculous. Around the goal, it's a basket. But we've got to prepare him for more than that. Running the floor. Being an initiator. If he rebounds it, bring it up. Be the point guard."

Washington played a version of point guard at the Las Vegas-based Findlay Prep.

"I was the 3-man," he said, "but pretty much I brought the ball up. Sometimes I ran the offense, and sometimes I played the post. I just tried to basically be a leader for them."

The Findlay coach was Washington's father.

"I'm a coach's son . . . ," Washington said. "So I know the ins and outs. So I just try to be smart on the court."

Where and how Washington will contribute this coming season is to be determined. Calipari said that Washington and Hamidou Diallo playing for his U19 team this summer gave the coach a "better picture" of "where I need to go with them."

5-star freshman PJ Washington has 'ridiculous' wingspan, 'relentless' mentality

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Oct. 12, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — P.J. Washington is so unusual it prompts Kentucky basketball coach John Calipari to provide an anatomy lesson.

"Your arms are supposed to be the same as your height," Calipari said, referring to wingspan. "Now, most of you in here, you have short arms. You [can't even] reach in your pockets. Like alligators, you just can't reach for anything. But P.J.'s are plus-eight inches. It is so ridiculous."

Washington, a freshman and former McDonald's All-American, is a bit short for a power forward: 6 feet, 7 inches. But he has a 7-foot-3 wingspan. Ridiculous indeed. Thanks to that and a similarly absurd 43-inch vertical leap, Washington is a problem in the paint.

"Around the goal," Calipari said, "it's a basket. But we've got to prepare him for more than that: running the floor, being the initiator, if he rebounds it, bring it up and be the point guard."

The what? That's right, the muscled-up, 234-pound point guard with arms as long as an NBA center. Remember, the catch phrase at Kentucky these days is "positionless." To that end, Calipari actually let Washington bring the ball up some for Team USA during the under-19 FIBA World Cup this summer.

"You could definitely see he was just trying to see what we could do on the court, how he wanted to use us this year," Washington said of that trip, when he and Wildcats shooting guard Hamidou Diallo started all seven games and small forward Kevin Knox was with the team for a few days of camp before getting injured. "He didn't know I can pass the ball, and he was surprised how good I pass it."

Washington averaged 27.1 points, 10.8 rebounds and 4.2 assists per 40 minutes for Team USA. He shot 58.9 percent from 2-point range … but only 48.8 percent from the free-throw line. That was apparently nipped in the bud right away.

"He was awful," Calipari said of the free throws. "I told him, 'This is good you are getting this out now, because you know you can't be in the game late if this is who you are.' But there is no reason for him to be a bad free-throw shooter. I think [Washington and Diallo, who also struggled at the line] are both tough enough that late in games they'll make shots."

Washington said he'd never gone so cold before and it has not been a problem since.

"I guess I just leaned back a little bit too much," he said, "but I'm better now."

There is not much else to nitpick in Washington's game. He was widely considered one of the best rebounders in the 2017 recruiting class — yet he doesn't consider that his calling card. When you have Go Go Gadget arms and can jump out of the gym, it just seems to come naturally.

"Honestly, I've never really tried to focus on rebound. I just went out and played," Washington said. "I've never focused on, like, getting 10 rebounds a game. But I feel like if I put my mind to it, I can do anything, and I feel like I can be a great glass cleaner this year."

Make no mistake, his success is about much more than raw, freakish physical attributes. It is also very much — perhaps most — about attitude. Calipari named Washington as one of Kentucky's three alpha-dog-type personalities.

ESPN analyst and former college coach Seth Greenberg, after watching the Wildcats practice a few times this summer, told SEC Country that Washington plays harder than anyone on the team.

"He just attacks in the open court and he's got a strength and a toughness about him," Greenberg said. "He reminds me a lot of Cal's old players when he was at UMass and Memphis. He's just got a hardness about him — a hard outer shell. Shoots it a little bit better than I thought. He's a relentless player."

Versatile, too, like all of the other 5-star forwards on this roster: Kevin Knox, Jarred Vanderbilt, Weneyn Gabriel, Sacha Killeya-Jones. Calipari plans to mix and match them, sometimes throw three or four of them at an opponent at the same time, and overwhelm with length.

"If you rebound it, you're the point guard. Go, and everybody fly," Calipari said. "But the other side of it is that [Washington's] strength around that basket, rebounding the ball and coming up with balls, he's good. He's good."

So don't be surprised to see Washington on the wing, but also as a small-ball center for Kentucky occasionally this season. Opposing big men might think they have a huge height advantage on him — until he stretches out those arms, throws his weight into them and springs up off the floor.

"We are all similar in some ways, but we're all unique in different ways," Washington said of the Cats' collection of forwards. "We all can do different things and I feel like we're versatile enough to all play at the same time, honestly. And I feel like we're going to be great this year."

John Calipari: 'How much work do I have to do' with this season's Cats?

By: Fletcher Page | Courier Journal | Oct. 26, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Maybe John Calipari made the story up or embellished it to make sure everybody paid attention.

Either way, his point was clear during a press conference on Thursday: His Kentucky Wildcats basketball team has a long way to go before reaching its potential.

Calipari said his wife, Ellen, asked if he was sick shortly after he watched film of the Wildcats' Blue-White Game last week.

"I watched the tape of the scrimmage and I started sweating," Calipari said. "Like, 'Oh my gosh, how much work do I have to do?'"

The Wildcats, who will begin the season ranked No. 4 in the USA TODAY coaches poll and were picked by the media to win the Southeastern Conference, will continue that work in an exhibition against in-state NCAA Division III opponent Thomas More College on Friday at Rupp Arena.

Kentucky basketball: Injury updates on Jarred Vanderbilt, Jemarl Baker

Among Calipari's criticisms of his team's performance in the intrasquad scrimmage last week: multiple Wildcats, including Quade Green, Hamidou Diallo and PJ Wash-

ington, cramped up and needed time on the bench during the second half.

That, according to Calipari, had a simple solution, though perhaps achieved through difficult means.

"That's cured because now we're conditioning at a high level like I've conditioned no other team I've coached here," Calipari said.

Freshman guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander estimated the team ran between 50 and 75 sprints after each practice this week.

"We know we've got to do that and to get to where we want to be we have to be in the best shape possible," he said.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who is competing for the starting point guard spot with Green, said there wouldn't be any cramping issues during the exhibition. "I would put money on it," he said.

The harder fix, according to Calipari, is how to best coach a squad that returned just 7.4 percent of its scoring from last season. He said he might be aggressive or passive during games. He still doesn't know, he said, but practices have slowed down as he blows the whistle each time a mistake is made.

"One of the players said, 'Coach, you stopped us so much in practice,'" Calipari said. "I said, 'I can't let you play in a way that you're not going to be able to play.' I stopped it. No. Instead of letting them go for five minutes and say, 'OK, here are the seven things I saw.' You can't do that with 18- and 19-year-old kids. That is unacceptable. You're not playing that way. I will sub you the minute you do that, so don't do it. All right, keep going. The problem with that is, it's hard to get them in playing-running shape, which is maybe why some of those guys cramped up in the scrimmage."

Gilgeous-Alexander said that's what the team "needs to get where we want to go."

"I think we're sloppy," he said. "We're young, so we don't exactly know how everyone plays and things like that. We don't pay attention to the details sometimes, we'll miss a few assignments, stuff like that. But we're getting better. That's what matters."

Kevin Knox lives up to 'silent assassin' nickname

By: Joe Mussatto | SEC Country | Oct. 27, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Wenyen Gabriel might've given Kentucky super freshman Kevin Knox a new nickname Friday night: "Silent assassin".

"Oh yeah," Quade Green said when hearing the nickname for Knox. "He scores so quietly."

Just how quiet? Knox needed only 12 shots to score 27 points in Kentucky's 103-61 exhibition win against Thomas More College. He was 8 of 12 from the floor and 10 of 10 from the free-throw line in 28 minutes. Knox might clang the rim with a few dunks, but that's about all the noise he makes.

"I'm not a big talker or yeller or anything like that," Knox said. "I talk on defense a little bit, but I'm not the type that's gonna yell every time I score or nothing like that. I'm really quiet on the court. Like (Gabriel) said, silent assassin."

There are six 5-star freshmen on Kentucky's roster, but Knox was the highest-ranked. He was the No. 10 prospect in the 2018 class and is perhaps the best NBA prospect on John Calipari's roster.

"When he's on the floor, out of nowhere he's right next to the rim," Gabriel said. "He was being aggressive today. He made almost all his shots it felt like. It's great having a weapon like that on the floor."

The exhibition against Thomas More was the first look at Kentucky against another team, but it's obviously not a preview of what the Cats will face once the regular season starts. Calipari looked more exasperated than a coach who just won by 42 points should look.

A handful of players cramped in the Blue-White scrimmage last week, and conditioning is still a problem, according to the coach.

"Right now we could play about an 18-minute game," Calipari said. "So hopefully as we go forward we'll have some 18-, 20-minute games. I think if it's 40 we're going to struggle for a while."

Knox and Gabriel downplayed the conditioning concerns.

"We're not too bad, but a lot of us haven't played a college game," Knox said of Kentucky's stamina. "We don't really know how big-time games go. It's a lot of up-and-down basketball. In practice we don't really do that much up-and-down. We do a lot of sprints and stuff, but not so much scrimmaging."

Calipari noticed weak legs at the end of the game, but the stats showed no problem when it came to speed. Kentucky outscored Thomas More 26-2 in fast-break points.

Kentucky will get its second preseason tune-up Monday night at Rupp Arena against Morehead State. The game, which is being called the Kentucky Cares Classic, will not be televised. Ticket proceeds will go to Team Rubicon, a non-government organization that pairs military veterans and first responders to deploy emergency-response teams.

Calipari says if Diallo shoots threes, he's coming out. There's more to it than that

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 30, 2017

The only UK player to make more than one three-pointer in the Wildcats' 92-67 exhibition victory over Morehead State on Monday night was Hamidou Diallo, a player often maligned for his outside shooting.

Diallo was 2-for-4 from three-point range and led the Cats with 23 points.

Sounds good, right?

Not according to UK Coach John Calipari, whose first mention of his star freshman in the post-game press conference wasn't exactly flattering.

"Hami shot threes, and I took him out," Calipari said, matter-of-factly. "You're not playing that way. You're going to drive the ball or I will sub you. It's not that hard. So shoot a three, you're coming out. He shot one, he came out.

"From that point on he drove the ball. He drove, he drove, he drove and then he got one three late in the game. That's who he is. He will play that way, folks, and I love him to death, or he won't play. But he will play that way."

Diallo's side of the no-threes-or-else story …

"No, that's not what happened," he said with a smile.

So, what happened?

"I think I took a bad three," Diallo replied. "That's what happened."

That's what Calipari wants to keep from happening in the future.

"He just doesn't want me taking ill-advised shots, because it's not good for our offense," Diallo said. "I'm with him on that. Sometimes I tend to get into my old habits and just shoot stepback threes and things like that. He's just trying to modify my game and make it as simple as possible for me.

"That's why he's such a great coach."

Diallo was the top-ranked shooting guard in the recruiting class of 2017, but he's never been known as a great shooter. He shot 16.7 percent from three-point range in his final summer on the Nike circuit, and he wasn't much better than that in high school.

His strength has always been his ability to get to the basket, and then to use his explosive athleticism to finish it off at the rim. When Calipari says that he wants Diallo to drive, drive, drive, those are the type of

plays the coach has in mind.

In the past, Diallo has played his own game and done his own thing.

Now, he's thinking more about the best route to points: driving vs. shooting.

"It's definitely tough, because I feel like no defender can stay in front of me," he said. "It's just all about reads and all about how the game is flowing."

Calipari took Diallo out shortly after his first missed three-pointer of Monday's game. A few minutes later, Diallo missed another jumper, and he was once again removed from the game. Toward the end of the first half, he missed another three-pointer and came out 10 seconds later.

Notice a pattern? Diallo finally did.

"I feel like I settled for a couple of bad shots, and he called me out on it. Took me out," he said. "And that's why I came here. That's why I chose to play for him. He's not going to let little things like that slide by, and he wants me to be my best version every time I'm out there."

In the second half, Diallo attacked, and he scored 14 points. He shot 4-for-5 from the floor after halftime, including a late make on a wide-open three in the corner.

Fellow freshman Shai Gilgeous-Alexander often defends Diallo in practice. He knows as well as anyone what the 6-5 shooting guard with the 6-11 wing span and jump-out-of-the-gym athleticism is capable of. And he's seen Diallo improve from deep.

"It's made great strides, even since the summer when we all came here," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I think that's probably the most underrated part of his game. He can really shoot it, and teams will see that. And the scouting report will change."

It sounds like Diallo's approach to shooting has changed, and that's an important step.

His high school coach, Tom Espinosa, told the Herald-Leader last year that Diallo was never shy about putting up shots and spending extra time in the gym. The problem, Espinosa said, was that Diallo would never shoot the ball the same way.

"He shoots it differently, almost every time," he said then. "He needs to be more consistent with his form. Every shot should be the same, whether you're 5 feet away or 20 feet away."

Diallo apparently got the memo.

"It's about consistency for me," he said Monday night. "Consistency and shooting it the same way. And just going in the gym, knowing where I'm at and knowing where I need to be at. And I feel like I've improved dramatically."

The sample size is still small on Diallo's perimeter shooting.

He airballed a couple of threes in the Blue-White Game and was 0-for-3 from deep in last week's exhibition victory over Thomas More. But those who see him every day in practice say that shot has come a long way and continues to improve.

When asked what would happen if Diallo becomes a consistent three-point shooter, Gilgeous-Alexander let out a long sigh, pondering the possibilities.

"I think he'd be absolutely unstoppable," he declared.

That's the goal.

"I've been shooting it well, and I'm just going to keep shooting it," Diallo said. "It's going to have to fall. I'm putting in the work, and I know it's not going to change over a day. Just keep putting in the work, and if teams keep giving me open shots, I'm just going to keep shooting it until they start respecting me."

Green, Diallo, Gilgeous-Alexander make a case that Cats' backcourt is just fine

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Oct. 30, 2017

Morehead State head coach Preston Spradlin worked for John Calipari at Kentucky for five years, meaning he saw some really good point guards. He coached against the Wildcats' new 5-star freshman floor general on Monday night in a exhibition game for charity.

Quade Green, whose starting spot is still not fully guaranteed, made 6 of 9 shots, 7 of 7 free throws, produced 20 points, 5 assists, 4 steals and just 1 turnover in 26 minutes off the bench in a 92-67 victory at Rupp Arena.

"He's good," Spradlin said. "That's about what I would expect in a point guard here at Kentucky."

Considering Kentucky has produced John Wall, Brandon Knight, Tyler Ulis and De'Aaron Fox — among other NBA draft picks at the position — it's high praise to say Green fits in. That was a legitimate concern, not just at point guard but in the backcourt, where the Wildcats have been loaded the last several seasons but figured to be a little thin this year.

Green, shooting guard Hamidou Diallo and combo guar Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (who started in place of Green on Monday) offered quite a rebuttal of that notion against the Eagles with 60 combined points.

Gilgeous-Alexander went for 17 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals, while Diallo hit 8 of 12 shots, including a pair of 3-pointers, for a game-high 23 points. The trio combined to sink 4 of 9 threes, addressing another preseason worry.

Calipari said afterward it was the best Green has played, and the coach loves the 6-foot-6 Gilgeous-Alexander's energy and the way he deflects so many balls with his 7-foot wingspan.

"They just came out and proved that they're two of the best guards in the country," said Diallo, who once he stopped settling for bad outside shots became unstoppable attacking the basket.

He laughed off the idea that Kentucky might be light in the backcourt.

"We actually got four guards," he said, echoing what Calipari has said about star freshman Kevin Knox, who scored 16 points and sank another 3-pointer, actually being a 6-foot-9 guard. "It's going to be really tough to stop us. Any night, we can all come out and have the high [point total]."

From summer pickup games to intermittent offseason practices to the current daily grind, Gilgeous-Alexander and Green have been going at each other in pursuit of that starting job and refining their games. Green probably has the edge at point guard, but his counterpart has proved more than capable — and deserving of, at minimum, the chance to play alongside him at times.

"I'm taller, so I see a couple things that he doesn't get to see because he's shorter," Gilgeous-Alexander said of the 6-foot Green. "But he's more of a shot-making point guard than I am. Some days I get him a little frustrated, but him going against me and my size every day only makes him better and he knows that."

That works both ways, as Green's offensive skills force Gilgeous-Alexander to shadow him at all three levels in the half court. The two youngsters complement each other nicely.

"I'm defense first," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I know it bothers other teams a lot. Me being a point guard, I don't want a 7-foot wingspan smothering me all game, so I just try to give the opponents what they don't want."

Morehead State turned the ball over 17 times in the first half — when it had only 18 shot attempts — and coughed it up 26 times for the game (to the Wildcats' 11).

"They're extremely long," Spradlin said afterward, after facing at one point 6-11, 7-foot and 7-foot wingspans on the perimeter Monday. "It's going to give anybody problems."

Meet Bob Rotella, the man who helps John Calipari figure out his Cats

By: Fletcher Page | Courier Journal | Nov. 2, 2017

Often during college basketball season, the phone rings at a house in small-town Vermont around 1 a.m., hours after the Kentucky Wildcats finished playing.

Ninety-eight-year-old Guy Rotella knows who's calling — it's always John Calipari.

Calipari calls because of his relationship with Guy's son, Dr. Bob Rotella.

In the late 1980s through the early '90s, as a rising star in the basketball coaching ranks, Calipari began working with acclaimed experts that could help him win.

He developed a relationship with Nike founder Phil Knight and recruited top-ranked high school prospects like Marcus Camby. And when he needed help with his approach, Calipari got in touch with Bob Rotella, one of the world's best-known sports psychologists.

Calipari called initially because "he was into building great teams and having his players really go after greatness," Rotella said.

That's what Rotella spent his life studying and teaching, using those ideas to help professional golfers win major championships and business executives effectively manage Fortune 500 companies.

Calipari and Rotella spent a couple of days together and have become good friends for more than two decades.

"I've learned to really, really admire John and love how much he cares about his players," Rotella, 69, said. "I think most of our conversations are one way or another about that."

As Calipari's career moved to the NBA and back to the college level at Memphis and Kentucky, talks and meet-ups with Rotella happened more frequently.

These days, phone calls happen on a weekly basis and Rotella visits Lexington a few times a year to work with Calipari and his Kentucky players.

And Calipari still chats with Rotella's dad. At some point years ago, Calipari found out that Guy Rotella didn't go to sleep until 3 a.m.

"He's still awake?" Calipari asked. "I'm always looking for someone to talk to."

You may like: Five questions facing Kentucky basketball in 2017-18 season

College Hoops Preview: Kentucky may not meet expectations — at first

In Lexington for three days in late October, Bob Rotella encountered Kentucky's youngest team yet and Calipari, "still energized and coaching like crazy."

The Wildcats have eight freshmen — all talented, of course, but first-year players nonetheless — and return only one player that played a significant role on last season's team.

"Bob tells me all the time, 'You've got to teach them how to lead. If you want them to lead, you better teach them because if you think they know that, you're crazy,'" Calipari said.

Rotella watched practices and an exhibition win against NCAA Division III Thomas More College. He listened to Calipari as he talked about trying to figure out how the team should play, who's going to be on the court the most, potential starting lineups and substitution patterns. There are old habits to change and new habits to develop, and Rotella said he knows Kentucky's staff will continue "to work like heck on them in practice" until the season opener against Utah Valley on Nov. 10.

"Sometimes I'm just listening to what John has to say and telling him, 'Yeah, I really like how you're thinking about it,'" he said. "Sometimes I might give him a different perspective from someone who's not on the inside."

Much of the conversations have been about how patient Calipari has to be with this team, especially when he's on the bench during games. During practices in the preseason, Calipari stopped play with his whistle and told his players to tell him to be patient. His voice changes when he reenacts the exchange: "'Coach, be patient. We're good kids. We're good players. We just don't know anything. Be patient.'

"Then I go, 'Because I'm ready to choke some of you right now.' That's every day I have to do that."

It helps, according to Rotella, that Kentucky's players "like each other a lot" and have ideal character and personalities.

"Sitting down with them, they really want to see how far they can go," he said. "... It's figuring out how long in the year do you just keep teaching and teaching and working on stuff and at what point in the year do you empower the team and say, 'OK, now you guys want it more than the staff does, and it's your team, and now you guys have to lead and take it home.'"

Rotella met with each player individually and spoke to the team collectively.

"He told me to be more aggressive and take more of a leadership role," freshman point guard Quade Green said. "Even though I am vocal, he wanted me to go to an even higher notch. Just do my job and help Cal get this team right."

This season's challenge may be more difficult than most, but Rotella says Calipari's pursuit has been the same since the UMass days. He estimates Calipari still spends "80 to 90 percent of his waking hours thinking about his basketball players."

Calipari calls Rotella to discuss any number of issues that come up over the course of a given season. One player may need help establishing the right frame of mind. Another may be struggling to accept the role of being unselfish. Another may not have fully committed to going after greatness.

"John wants to do everything humanly possible to help his players become the best they can be," Rotella said. "... "We're chasing something fantastic and we want to see how far we can go with it."

Among his endeavors, Rotella has mentored golfers Rory McIlroy, Davis Love, III, Nick Price and countless others, written best-selling books "How Champions Think" and "Golf Is Not a Game of Perfect," volunteered as an assistant golf coach at the University of Virginia (where he has served in various capacities for more than two decades, most recently as director of the sports psychology department) and is the past president of the North American Association for Applied Sports Psychology.

He, like Calipari, is still pursuing greatness and working harder than ever.

"That's kind of what I've been into my whole life, and I think as a result we got along," he said.

Rotella takes pride in Calipari's calls to his 98-year-old father after games. "I just like how good his heart is," Bob Rotella said, and that reminds him of a story about Calipari's father.

A few years ago, Rotella sat next to Vince Calipari on the bus headed to an NCAA championship game.

On the way to see his son coach on the biggest stage in college basketball, Vince Calipari told Rotella about a job he lined up for John when he was a freshman in college. It was in a west Pennsylvania steel or coal mine making $12 an hour, enough pay to cover an entire year of college tuition, room and board.

John told his dad, "I don't want that job. I want to coach basketball." At the time, John made $8 a week coaching camps and spent at least 10 hours a day in the gym.

Vince Calipari said he thought to himself, "man, this kid is nuts" and he couldn't believe John didn't take the opportunity for a raise and a decent gig.

On that point, Vince Calipari looked at Rotella and laughed.

"Boy, am I glad he didn't listen to me," he said.

Rotella tells that story because he says it reveals John Calipari's desire for basketball from the beginning.

"I think he's had a vision for a long time."

New social media company INFLCR working with UK basketball to build players' brands

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Nov. 2, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The message struck home quickly with UK freshman point guard Quade Green.

As part of Kentucky's new deal with social media software platform INFLCR (pronounced "influencer"), the school's men's basketball team engaged in a round of social media training last month with the central message of "building your brand." The success of Los Angeles Lakers rookie point guard Lonzo Ball and his family's "Big Baller Brand" had Green already thinking about his own options.

"Everybody got a different brand," Green said. "Like Baller Brand, they built their brand all the way up. We're just trying to get where they at right now. …

"Plan A, that's one of my brands. I've got no other plan but plan A. No plan B, no plan C. If you're on a plan, I stick with that, go full force with that. Don't take nothing from me."

The fact that Green is already thinking about how to leverage his platform is music to INFLCR founder Jim Cavale's ears.

A former college baseball player at NCAA Division II Montevallo, Cavale is no stranger to entrepreneurship. A television and radio network for small-school sports programs and a recruiting database website were among his first ventures. He then helped grow the Iron Tribe Fitness gym to more than 40 franchises as the company's president.

Working at Iron Tribe, Cavale first began to brainstorm ideas for ways to connect the national brand with individual franchises. The idea expanded to sports teams and universities, eventually resulting in INFLCR, which centers around a software platform that allows clients to connect social media accounts for recruits, players, coaches and teams all in one hub.

The software is designed to not only let clients monitor all those accounts but also easily distribute content to their players and coaches to promote one unified message.

UK was the first client to sign with the company in June for an initial $10,000 subscription fee, according to a contract obtained through an open records request.

Since officially launching on July 1, INFLCR has expanded to five programs, including Southeastern Conference schools Auburn and South Carolina. Cavale said he is in advanced negotiations with five more schools and on track to pass his goal of signing six programs in the company's first six months.

"I know that building a personal brand as a Division II baseball player really before social media existed is a big reason that I've been able to be successful somewhat in my career as an entrepreneur," Cavale said. "So if I've been able to do that, how can these young men and women leverage the stage, the platform if you will, that they've been blessed to play on so if that they're the 99 percent that doesn't 'make it' they still have built a brand they can leverage no matter what they do?

"They might sell life insurance. They might work at your publication. Who knows? But their brand is even that much more tangible because they took the time to build it while they were in school."

Cavale's foot in the door with Kentucky was deputy athletics director DeWayne Peevy, a fellow Montevallo alumnus.

He began meeting with the school about his idea in March. His brand-centric message was one that appealed to the athletics department.

"I think that historically we've done a really good job of educating our student-athletes about some of the dangers on social media and how to protect their own personal brand, but we found ourselves in a position where we wanted to take that to the next level in some ways and enable our student-athletes to build their brand and also to connect more directly with Kentucky fans while they're here," said Guy Ramsey, UK's director of strategic communication.

The athletics department is still working through how exactly it plans to best use the INFLCR software, but Ramsey said he envisions a scenario where distributing content to players and coaches for marketing campaigns like the department's annual Super Bowl commercial becomes much more streamlined. A mobile app for the software is in development and would allow individual athletes and coaches to access that content directly as opposed to the current system where staffers have to email or text them images and videos.

Already, the ability to monitor player and recruit social media accounts across multiple platforms in one spot instead of trying to follow each account on each individual network has proven beneficial, Ramsey said.

The social media training for the men's basketball team was an added perk of the deal.

"We just don't have all the answers," Cavale said. "We've created something that brings new value, which is how we're able to get a signed contract with a school like Kentucky that is bringing new value. We're going to learn with them and build new stuff that we haven't thought of or we wouldn't think of without them."

Cavale aims for INFLCR to be with 60 schools by 2019. He hopes to begin working with professional sports organizations, including teams, leagues and agencies, in 2018.

"We're always trying to be innovative and be on to the next thing," Ramsey said. "When this opportunity came along we felt like it was a pretty good one, so we jumped on."

Cavale's vision for INFLCR suggests UK's early adoption of the platform will prove beneficial not only for the school itself but also for its athletes.

"At first the young men might feel like, 'Jeez, they're watching everything I do. I feel like they're Big Brother.' But at the end of the day they're really watching everything that you're doing everywhere else anyways," he said. "That's part of coming to this program and learning how to do everything like a pro: Eat, sleep, practice, play like a pro. So, why would you not want to learn how to do social like a pro?"

Kentucky Wildcats' Nick Richards' offensive 'arsenal has grown'

By: Fletcher Page | Courier Journal | Nov. 3, 2017

Nick Richards, the 7-foot tall, 245-pound Kentucky freshman with a 7-foot-5 wingspan, doesn't hide his feelings when asked about playing in the post.

He's honest about his interest in doing something else on the basketball court.

"It's not really what I want to be in life, but it's what my team needs right now," he said. "It's sacrificing. It's what the teams needs, not really what you need. If my team needs a guy in the post to have a post presence, so that's what I'll do."

That's what he did Friday night in Kentucky's 106-63 exhibition win against Centre College at Rupp Arena.

Richards had 17 points on a perfect night of shooting, hitting all six takes from the field and going 5-for-5 at the free-throw line. The jump hook, with either his left or right hand, is the move Kentucky's staff has advised Richards use throughout the preseason.

"He's gotten way better," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "But we just, he's just got to keep going."

Richards used the jump hook effectively

against the helpless Colonels, who didn't have a player taller than 6-foot-8 and couldn't possibly contest or block Richards. One of his' jump hooks in the second half swished through the net from at least 12 feet away, further proof that his range and confidence is expanding.

"I think his confidence in the post and him giving us that post presence has been huge," Kentucky sophomore forward Sacha Killeya-Jones said. "I think he knows now that he doesn't have to take six dribbles and try to get right to the rim. He can take one dribble and shoot a left-hand jump hook from 10 feet. That's really impressive, how much his arsenal has grown here, too."

So what's with the lack of love for playing in the post? Richards clarified his comments by saying he's not opposed to doing anything Calipari needs or asks, but he said he frequently watches/studies NBA games. He sees the way Minnesota Timberwolves 7-foot forward Karl-Anthony Towns, the former Wildcats' great, plays on the perimeter and in the paint.

"I just think my ultimate goal is to reach the NBA, and you don't see a lot of guys in the NBA that are in the post now," Richards said. "They're more offensive guys that can take other bigs off the dribble. I think I'm more athletic, my game is faster than to just be in the post."

The NBA comparisons don't stop there. Richards' goal for free-throw percentage this season grows higher and higher and it provides evidence that he could also be an efficient jump-shooter from the field.

"Eighty, 85, close to 90, hopefully," he said of his free-throw shooting. Not many big guys approach those numbers. Eight games into his third NBA season, Towns is hitting 88 percent. That makes 90 percent a lofty goal.

"I guess I'll be the first," Richards said laughing.

"He's a really good foul shooter," Calipari said. "He's a good shooter. I mean, if you leave him open at the foul line in those areas, he can make that shot."

If that happens and the jump hooks keep going in, Kentucky assistant Kenny Payne deserves some of the credit.

"I just had to go in the gym and take thousands and thousands and thousands of shots with coach Payne," Richards said. "You can see the results. It's getting there."

The effort hasn't gone unnoticed by Richards' teammates.

"Nick's always been in the gym early," sophomore forward Wenyen Gabriel said. "He's getting his work in at night, he's getting workout in before games, workouts before practice. ... I'm proud of Nick."

Richards missed his only shot and didn't score earlier this week in Kentucky exhibition win against Morehead State. He followed that with his best performance of his young career against Centre. The coming months could be inconsistent, but Richards is firm about his goal of becoming a more complete offensive player.

"Now I have to show a little bit more confidence in my offensive game," he said. "It took time. ... It's not where it needs to be, but it's getting there."

Philly star Quade Green in a big spotlight at Kentucky

By: Mike Jensen | Philadelphia Inquirer | Nov. 3, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — This is what Quade Green wanted, the big spotlight, the big time. He wanted Tim Barker, a Kentucky fan since '66 who had made the Blue-White scrimmage the week before and was at Rupp Arena early for this exhibition against a Division III school, sitting in the upper deck bleachers.

"Never miss a game," Barker said before Green's first Rupp appearance against outside competition. He meant on television or live. Barker drove 82 miles down from Hebron in northern Kentucky to see these new guys again.

Green, the freshman point guard from Philadelphia, Neumann-Goretti High, wanted to play in front of Alan Patterson, who made the 70-mile drive up from Casey County with his cousin's husband and already had seen enough of Green pregame to say, "He's going to be a nice little point guard."

The view is different now for Green. He's not at 10th and Moore anymore. Past a baseline at Neumann-Goretti there's a wall and a door into the hallway. At Rupp? Villanova fans know this place once hosted a Final Four. Baseline seating goes up 33 rows. Then you hit the upper deck, 20 more rows of bleachers. The cheap seats were more full than the expensive seats at this exhibition game against Thomas More College maybe because some regulars knew they had access to the meaningful games ahead. (Attendance was 19,736, in a place that fits 23,500).

Green was one of five freshman UK starters, all dreaming of being one-and-done. Wildcats fans already have brushed up on his game. Seems like they all had watched the McDonald's All-American and the Jordan Brand Classic and the HoopHall Classic, the ones Green had played in.

Green shoots better than they expected — that seemed to be the prevailing opinion in the upper deck. If they could have been there earlier before the doors opened, they would have seen the 6-footer wander out and immediately start knocking down shots, 10 straight from the right wing, 8 of 11 from up top, 13 of 15 from the left wing.

The game began and Green quickly hit a couple of catch-and-shoot threes. Asked later about whether he has been shooting well in practice, Quade said, "Oh yeah. I've been shooting well all the time. That's one of my key traits."

Green came to Kentucky to be coached by John Calipari. Cal has quickly obliged. He got on Green a couple of times about passes he wanted made that weren't being made, even if the alternative seemed fine. What was Calipari emphasizing there about Green's passing?

"Give it up,'' Calipari said, not waiting for the end of the question to start in on what he's looking for from Green. "Give it up early so you can get it back, so we can have you shoot. One of the best shooters, so why would you hold, hold, hold, hold, hold, hold, throw it. You never get that one back."

Kentucky's coach, who has been around a couple of blocks, didn't point out that getting the ball to the Wildcats' fleet of star big men should be a primary goal. Green got the message — he didn't need the part about getting it back.

"In high school, I used to dribble the ball a lot," Green said later, pointing out that he had Dhamir Cosby Roundtree, now at Villanova, to throw it to, and Neumann-Goretti certainly had good younger players, and he was with Mo Bamba one summer on a travel team, but nothing like this collection now in Lexington.

"I'm playing with more better players than I ever dreamed about," Green said. "Even at camp, I didn't have this many people on my team. Get the ball out of my hands fast and get them more touches, that's all I'm thinking."

Quade also has consultants like he'd never dreamed of, mentioning the regular contact with former UK guards such as "Aaron and Andrew ..."

... That's the Harrison twins.

"Tyler, Isaiah ..."

Ulis, Briscoe.

Green does give the John who helps him out by text a last name, since it's Wall.

He already is learning the difference between a spotlight and a fishbowl. In his hometown, he could wear a Kentucky sweatshirt walking down the street and if he was away from basketball most people would probably assume he was just a big UK fan. Here, everybody seems to know

all about him before he's played an official game. Twitter lit up with opinions right after the Blue-White game. The closest home-town comparison for a UK point guard could be an Eagles quarterback, or at least a first-round draft choice.

"I'm very aware all of my actions have repercussions," Green said of the attention.

Gets a little crazy?

"People show up at our dorm just to sign pictures," Green said.

All the time?

"Often — every day," he said.

An exhibition game against a Division III school still meant the Storm Chaser van from Lex 18 was in the parking lot almost three hours before tip-off, crew setting up for a live shot in a corner of the court. Miss Kentucky USA was warming up to host the in-house video on the big screen.

At halftime, James Smith, who had driven 100 miles up from Knox County near the Tennessee border with his nephew, said of Green: "He's going to be a good one, I believe."

Afterward, there were as many reporters as some NCAA tournament games attract.

"I look good?" Green joked, mimicking like he was smoothing his hair as cameras turned on for his post-game interview.

This is what he wanted. Time to play ball.

Don't adjust your TV sets, a zone defense really saved the day verses Utah Valley

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Nov. 10, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — It would take something pretty extreme to get John Calipari to lean heavily on a zone defense. Something like, say, fifth-ranked Kentucky trailing Utah Valley by a dozen points in the second half of the season opener at Rupp Arena on Friday night.

Yep, that did the trick. Calipari grudgingly went to his longest lineup — 6-foot-6 Shai Gilgeous-Alexander at point guard with Hamidou Diallo (6-5), Kevin Knox (6-9), Wenyen Gabriel (6-9) and Nick Richards (7-0) — and deployed a 2-3 zone with five guys who all have wingspans of 7 feet or longer.

Calipari can despise it all he wants, and does he ever, but it's tough to argue with what happened next for Kentucky: 11 unanswered points in 88 seconds and an 18-0 run that gave the Wildcats a lead they would never relinquish.

Kentucky 73, Utah Valley 63 was hardly an inspiring first result, and it raised some real red flags, but Calipari and Co. avoided abject disaster. Thanks to the zone.

"I'll be honest: We haven't spent a lot of time preparing [for] zone yet. It did what it was intended to do," former UK player and current Wolverines coach Mark Pope said. "Smart move by Coach Cal. The zone always has its holes, but if you can have a big zone like they do with their point guard and everyone else, it has a chance to be really effective. It certainly was, I thought, the difference in the game for us."

All told, the Cats probably played about 7 minutes of zone to start that second half, but it's all they needed. They forced 5 turnovers in a little more than 3 minutes during the big run — 3 steals in a row by Gilgeous-Alexander, two leading to monster dunks by Diallo — and for the game had 8 blocks and 11 steals.

"At halftime, I said, 'This is good for us. Let's see who we are. Let's see who is willing to fight,' " Calipari said. "We went zone and it kind of got us going — and that's what we should use the zone for."

Those words must've tasted like sour milk in his mouth. He's a man-to-man purist from way back, and he treats zone like the four-letter word that it is.

"I have had seasons where we have not played one [possession] of zone," Calipari said. "The issue becomes I have a responsibility to teach these kids how to play pick-and-roll defense, how to stay in front of people, man-to-man. I mean, from here on [in the NBA] there is no more zone. They're going to have to learn. But I also have a responsibility to win, so I'll play as much as I have to, to win a game.

"If we played 7 minutes today in zone, would you say that's more than we played all of last year?"

No, that's probably an exaggeration. But not a huge one. You get the point — and Diallo gets Calipari's.

Diallo is the guy who claimed at SEC Media Day last month that his coach was "falling in love with zone" in practice, an idea at which Calipari promptly laughed.

"He's never going to get crazy about it," Diallo admitted after Friday night's game in which he had 18 points, 5 rebounds and 3 assists. "We're still going to be a man team first. We're going to have to buy into defending. I wouldn't say [zone is] a weapon. I would say it's something that we can use, just adding to our repertoire. But our weapon is always going to be our man-to-man, and we're going to have to lock in and get better at it.

"When it comes to big games, we're going to have to be able to guard [individual] players."

Gilgeous-Alexander, who like Knox had 4 steals Friday, likes the zone as a change-up to get teams off balance.

"Us guarding spots instead of men is going to be tough for other teams' offense to score on us," he said. "Early in the year, [Calipari] told us that he's never really used zone, but we're so long and athletic that he's going to have to. You guys so what it did today. It really helped."

This is probably where Kentucky fans, who've heard Calipari claim he's toying with the idea of a zone several times over the last eight years only to watch that idea go the way of the Dodo bird as soon as one opponent makes one 3-pointer against it, are rolling their eyes. But this is a different kind of team, and it might require a new approach.

"Anybody loves going on an 18-0 run with steals and fast breaks," Diallo said. "So I loved playing it today. Whatever's getting us going that day, that's what we're going to have to stick to. And that's the great thing about this team, that we can do many things to get us going."

'Sacha played his butt off today': Killeya-Jones has found his role with the Wildcats

By: Ben Roberts | Kentucky Sports | Nov. 12, 2017

LEXINGTON,Ky.- A question about free throws following Kentucky's 73-69 squeaker of a victory over Vermont on Sunday turned John Calipari's attention to one player who's been largely overlooked going into another Wildcats' season dominated by youth.

Sacha Killeya-Jones is one of three scholarship sophomores on this UK team, and that qualifies him as a veteran on a roster with eight freshmen.

Going by playing time, Killeya-Jones was the second-most experienced Wildcat going into this season, behind only Wenyen Gabriel.

A quick recap of Killeya-Jones' freshman year:

He didn't play in any of UK's final 19 games.

He didn't score after logging two points in the Cats victory over Arkansas on Jan. 7.

He didn't play more than 10 minutes in a game after a Nov. 25 win over Tennessee-Martin.

By the end of the season — with the Wildcats rolling toward a possible Final Four appearance — there were rumors that Killeya-Jones would transfer once the 2016-17 campaign was finished. Amid the joy of those first three post-game locker rooms in the NCAA Tournament, he sat mostly silent.

The 6-foot-10 power forward and Mc-

Donald's All-American stuck it out, however, and now he seems to have found his place.

His stat line Sunday — six points and four rebounds in 18 minutes — doesn't jump off the page, but for anyone watching Killeya-Jones would have been impossible to miss. He was constantly mixing it up inside, playing an aggressive, involved, physical brand of basketball that was missing in what little time he saw on the court last season.

He also shot 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the second half, the second pair of those lifting UK to a six-point lead with less than 6 minutes left.

"Sacha making those free throws was big," Calipari said. "By the way, let me not forget him. Sacha played his butt off today. You just saw him, the work that's put in: this is what he's looking like in practice and now he's carrying it over into the game. His confidence is going to be demonstrated performance, not me telling him, 'You're great, you're the best, you're …' No.

"You do it in practice, you go in a game, you demonstrate that performance to yourself. That's how you build confidence. I can't build it for these guys. He was terrific."

For Killeya-Jones, a McDonald's All-American who came to Lexington with high expectations last season, and for UK fans, who are used to seeing so many of those McDonald's All-Americans succeed immediately, this has been a bit of a process.

Last year, Killeya-Jones often looked tentative on the court. He rarely mixed it up in the post. Sometimes, he didn't do much of anything when he got time on the floor.

While fellow McDonald's All-Americans De'Aaron Fox, Malik Monk and Bam Adebayo flourished, Killeya-Jones was still trying to figure it all out.

After a while, Calipari lost confidence in him, and that was it. He became a spectator for the last two months of the season.

"It was somewhat frustrating, obviously, just because you want to be on the court helping your team," Killeya-Jones said Sunday. "But it's not something I dwell on or anything. It was an experience that I went through, and I needed it. And I've grown from there and gotten so much better. I wouldn't be who I am without that.

"I learned just watching those guys ahead of me — that effort wins out. If you're playing harder than the other guy, then you're going to be in a position to make the plays and be in a position to help your team."

His teammates this season have seen Killeya-Jones progress from day to day.

The program's Blue-White intrasquad scrimmage was just a little bit more than three weeks ago, but, even then, Killeya-Jones looked like his freshman self.

Calipari has been on him to play his role on this team — Killeya-Jones says that means defending, rebounding and running the floor — and Sunday was the best example so far that he can be an effective piece to this UK puzzle.

"Sacha has been great. Unbelievable," teammate PJ Washington said of Killeya-Jones' recent practices. "The energy — blocking shots, rebounds. (He's) playing way better than what he has been.

"He's more focused. And he just wants to win now. He likes to score sometimes, but he knows his role on this team. … Cal's been on him a little bit. He tells him his role everyday, and Sacha comes out and does it."

Killeya-Jones was involved in more plays than that final box score Sunday would suggest. He fought for loose balls. He kept possessions alive. He was physical in the post. He was, at times, all over the floor. In a good way.

Billed in high school as a 6-10 big man with a sweet-looking outside jumper, Killeya-Jones is finding a different way to help his team. And, after sitting out most of last season, he's having a blast knowing he can make a difference in this one.

"This has been probably the best year of my life," he said. "I'm just getting so much better and learning so much. It's just an awesome experience. I'm loving it."

Forget the haters: John Calipari is underrated as coach

By: Kevin Flaherty | 247sports | Nov. 14, 2017

The best thing about Twitter is that it offers a real-time accounting of events. The worst thing about Twitter is that it offers a real-time accounting of events.

And so even before the stands were cleared from Canada's 99-87 semifinal victory over Team USA at the U-19 World Cup this summer, the no-filtered takes started coming in hot.

While USA U-19 coach John Calipari was talking up the performance of Canadian star R.J. Barrett, who dropped 38 points, and taking the blame for the loss, Twitter was aflame.

The most level-headed Tweeters pointed out that it was Team USA's first loss since 2011. Still others claimed that Calipari sabotaged the roster to pack it full of Kentucky players and recruits to fill his own needs. Others said that it was inevitable when you picked a coach whose main strength was as a recruiter. And finally, even a high school coach tweeted that he should have sent in his own résumé, because he would have done a better job.

For the Calipari haters out there — and there are many — the Team USA result represented Harry Potter's Mirror of Erised, where fans could stare deeply into its reflection and see exactly what they wanted most.

Put differently, as the proverb often attributed to Mark Twain goes: "Never let the truth stand in the way of a good story."

Did Calipari load up Team USA with Kentucky recruits, at the expense of the best roster? Not according to The Sporting News' Michael DeCourcy, who was at the trials. DeCourcy pointed out that while the head coach has say on his roster, it's actually picked by a panel of 6-to-8 different coaches.

Further, DeCourcy said that the committee picked the best players in attendance. UCLA's Kris Wilkes was one possibility who was left off, but nobody had any idea that Romeo Langford would have back spasms. Bol Bol was another option, but the committee took another forward, rather than a third center.

"They took the best players. Now did they get the best players? No," DeCourcy said. "Miles Bridges could have been at this tournament. Michael Porter could have been at this tournament. Even Markelle Fultz could have been in the tournament, but it's been traditional that guys going to the NBA haven't played."

Top Duke freshman Marvin Bagley III also wasn't involved. Had those players elected to play, it might have been a different story. R.J. Barrett might still have been the best player on the floor, but "they didn't have a lot of the guys who could have made the U.S. so talented that one guy wouldn't have overtaken them."

So if the USA took the best players available, was the loss instead the final event that established Calipari as all recruiter and no coach?

"People who say that Calipari can't coach," said Jerry Meyer, 247Sports Director of Scouting, "that's just ridiculous."

"The thing that bothers me about the idea that he's primarily a recruiter is that it shows the person who's speaking has no concept of history, at all," DeCourcy said. "It acts as though John Calipari's career began when he got to Kentucky."

As a writer in Pittsburgh when Calipari was making his bones as UMass head coach, DeCourcy said he was often amazed at the way people crafted their own narratives around Calipari.

"The whole narrative from the national media around him was that he was a Pitino

clone," DeCourcy said. "And I just used to laugh because, do they realize that Pitino plays like all-out, 94-feet pressure defense, trap the post when they get to halfcourt and Calipari's playing slug ball in the lane, nobody gets the ball into the lane? I mean they were completely opposite. There was no connection other than they were both Italian. And I thought it was almost offensive. But it started there, and they've really been going at it with him ever since."

Still, Calipari made a name for himself at UMass, and did so largely without, gasp, the luxury of elite-level recruits.

"His first great team in 1992 had one borderline Top 100 player on it, Tony Barbee," DeCourcy said. "He had two kids from Pittsburgh and I had covered high schools in Pittsburgh at the time these two kids had played there, Jim McCoy and Will Herndon. Will Herndon was a 6-3 power forward … that nobody wanted because he was a 6-3 power forward. He could jump over the backboard, and he was as powerful as an offensive guard, but he was 6-3 so nobody wanted him. And Jim McCoy was a kid who was barely recruited by Duquesne in his hometown and wasn't recruited at all by Pitt and John took him to UMass and he became the school's all-time leading scorer.

"They didn't have anybody anybody ever heard of, and they won 30-plus games and they beat Syracuse, which I believe might have been the Big East Champion that year, was very close to it, then pushed Kentucky to the brink in the Sweet 16," DeCourcy said.

Getting Barbee was a coup, to be sure, and Calipari eventually reached the Final Four in 1996 on the back of a former Connecticut Gatorade Player of the Year in Marcus Camby. But DeCourcy pointed out that players like McCoy and Herndon showed both Calipari's ability to identify and evaluate talent, and then to develop it.

Calipari's first UMass team in 1988-89 went 10-18. The Minutemen won 20 games in year three, then 30 in year four, with the Minutemen never dipping below 24 wins or missing the NCAA Tournament in his last five seasons in Amherst. The crown jewel was Calipari's final UMass team, a 30-1 bulldozer that made it the Final Four before falling to Pitino's loaded 1995-96 Kentucky squad.

Then Oral Roberts coach Bill Self knew Calipari — the two just missed intersecting as graduate assistants at Kansas under Larry Brown by one year — and lauded Calipari's success at UMass.

"I was amazed at the job he did building that program," Self said. "That today still may be the best coaching job, taking that program to a Final Four and a No. 1 seed."

With that kind of coaching background, why does Calipari get labeled "primarily as a recruiter"? Probably because he's so stinking good at it.

One of the few point guard targets to slip through Calipari's fingers at Kentucky, Oklahoma freshman Trae Young sat up a bit in his seat at Big 12 Media Days when asked for his impression of the Kentucky coach.

"You either love him," Young said, "or you don't."

Count Young in the former category. His choice came down to Oklahoma, Kansas and Kentucky, with Young choosing the local school — he's from Norman, Okla. But that didn't stop him from feeling the intoxicating nature of Calipari's recruiting pitch. Calipari, coach of such point guards as Derrick Rose, John Wall, Eric Bledsoe, Brandon Knight and most recently De'Aaron Fox, told Young that a team can't win without great point guard. And Young, the No. 4 point guard in the 247Sports Composite, was Calipari's key to the ignition.

"It was going to be my team," Young said. "I was going to go out and recruit some of my best friends to come with me and we were going to go win a national championship. What could be better than that?"

Meyer said that Calipari's effectiveness came courtesy of his ability to pitch history to any player who wanted to be a one-and-done type of talent.

"He's one of the best recruiters in the country because he can tell players that they can come in and he'll get them ready for the NBA," Meyer said. "And obviously, he has a lot of successful examples to point to."

Too many to name here. While Camby was one of the first huge gets for Calipari on the recruiting trail, the most important recruit might have been Dajuan Wagner at Memphis. The explosive scorer hit Memphis for one year in 2001-02, averaging 21.2 points per game. Calipari pushed Wagner to the NBA after that year, before "one and done" was even a thing … players at that time could head to the NBA right out of high school. Wagner left, got paid and none too quickly, as he was beset by injuries that sapped what could have been a shining NBA future.

But Wagner gave Calipari's Memphis program the cache it needed to recruit among the stars. Sure, Rose was the eventual headliner. But Rose's 2007-08 team that went to the National Championship Game had multiple Top 50 players alongside him. After following Rose with Tyreke Evans, Calipari shocked the world with John Wall (No. 2 in the 2009 247Sports Composite) and DeMarcus Cousins (No. 3) in the same class, landing Daniel Orton (No. 16) for good measure.

That 2009 class was ranked No. 1 in the nation and established Calipari as possibly THE recruiting force to be reckoned with in the country. And when that force knocks on your door and asks you to join Big Blue Nation?

"That's a crazy feeling," Young said. "It's a dream come true. When Coach Cal comes in your living room and he wants you to come to [his] school, your first thought is, 'I'm going.' But he's a good dude, he's a really good coach. He was one of my favorites. He's just really laid back, he gets straight to his point."

While that wasn't enough to sway Young from the thought of playing the hometown hero, Calipari's same pitch — run the show, bring your friends — worked on the No. 2 point guard in 2018's 247Sports Composite, Immanuel Quickley.

"He's done a remarkably great job there at Kentucky. "But I will say this: They still frustrate us because a lot of guys that we want, they're signing," Self said, laughing. "He's awfully tough to beat on the recruiting trail."

"People who want to evaluate coaching act as though all that happens in coaching happens on the bench. The reality is, of all the coaches' jobs, and there are a lot of them, and there's a lot that goes into being a college coach as you know, of all the jobs, the actual X'ing and O'ing is probably the least important part. Other than maybe dealing with the media, and even that might be more important because it goes back into recruiting," DeCourcy said. "The X's and O's are important, but they're probably the least impactful. What you do in practice, getting your team prepared to play, getting them to play together, getting a system in place that works for them, all those things are more important than 'can you come out of a timeout and draw up a play that works.'

"It's not as important as game prep and scouting and getting people ready to play," DeCourcy said. "And I don't see how anybody can say after watching John either at Kentucky for eight or nine years or even before that, that his teams aren't prepared to play."

Interestingly enough, DeCourcy said that criticism of Calipari as a coach goes back to recruiting.

"I think you have to remember that a lot of criticism of coaches is strategic now," DeCourcy said. "[They say] I guess if we can convince these recruits that that guy can't coach, then maybe they'll want to come and play for our coach.

"It doesn't explain all the media criticism

that's deficient or substandard or misinformed," DeCourcy said. "But it does explain a lot of what you hear out there now."

And a lot of that is just white noise to people like Self, who has known Calipari "for a really long time," but now sees himself as more competitor than friend to Kentucky's coach.

"Which is probably healthy, in large part because he's at Kentucky, and the kids that we want to recruit, they want to recruit and vice versa. So there's a lot of those battles," Self said. "But from a respect standpoint, I think that Cal is really a good coach. I mean, a really good coach. And I think he does a great job of getting young guys to all kind of check their egos in and mesh pretty well."

That's similar praise to that heaped on Calipari by Meyer.

"One of the hardest things to do with young players is get them to play defense," Meyer said. "And every year, by the end of the year, Cal has Kentucky playing some of the best defense in the nation."

It all starts with effort, and buy in, as Calipari told media members this week.

"You build your confidence by playing harder than the other guy. By doing it together so you don't feel the weight of the world on you," Calipari said. "You don't want to feel the weight of the world on you. What does the team need me to do? I'm going to go do that. What we're trying to have everybody do is play in a way that they can have success.

"The guys that fight us usually have a confidence problem," Calipari said. "They're trying to do what they want to do, and all of a sudden they look so bad and then they just have no confidence."

Self, who has coached his fair share of one-and-done talents himself, pointed out that it's not as easy as simply rolling the ball out and letting the talent go. There's a process, one that he said Calipari is especially adept at finishing.

In that respect, is Calipari actually underrated as a coach?

"I think so. I think everybody that has better players sometimes doesn't get the credit for coaching," Self said. It's much easier to make an average player look better than average than it is to make a really good player look better than really good. That's a talent, and I think [Calipari] does a good job of that.

"I don't know that Phil Jackson probably got the credit for being a coach when he had Rodman, Pippen and Jordan. Because people said, well, they should be great. But you've still got to manage them and put them in the right places."

And those haters should beware, because DeCourcy said that they might just be providing the fuel Calipari needs to thrive.

"Kentucky has a lot of quote-unquote enemies. A lot of rivals. So whatever he does, it's not going to be enough for them. But I think that Calipari has his own enemies or rivals in the media. And they're not going to change their minds either," DeCourcy said. "He won a national championship, and that didn't shut it down. Others have done the one-and-done thing, and he still gets criticized for that more than anybody. And he's in the Hall of Fame and it hasn't shut it up.

"So as long as he's out there competing, that's going to exist to some degree and he can't allow himself to be governed or defined by it. And he doesn't — to his credit, he just moves on," DeCourcy said. "I think he does allow himself to be motivated by it. I think he does crave that. It takes a lot of energy to do things the way that he does it, and I think that's fuel for him, and I think it always has been."

Youthful Kentucky learns a lot about itself- and the work that lies ahead

By: Brian Hamilton | The Athletic | Nov. 15, 2017

It could be just one of those stories John Calipari tells, but it sounds good and halfway legitimate enough based on how Kentucky's 65-61 loss to Kansas in the Champions Classic transpired on Tuesday night, so here goes: The Wildcats needed a bucket to tie in the final half-minute. They decided to give the ball to Kevin Knox, the most prolific of their many freshmen on this night. And this, Calipari insisted in the United Center media room, was the extent of his play call. We're throwing it to Kevin. Get a shot. "How's that for great offense?" the coach asked, neither expecting nor needing an answer.

So Kentucky threw it to Kevin. And Kevin got a shot. And Kevin's shot was a bad-angle floater from dang near behind the backboard. It didn't connect. And every bit of this plan, from its beginning to its end, was predictable. At some point Kentucky will get that and a great many other things right, but Tuesday was not that point. This was the point when one of the youngest teams Calipari has coached was bullied and pushed in the way you'd expect Kansas to bully and push a team with eight freshman and no seniors. This was the point when Kentucky didn't even have late-game offense to call upon, because its coach claimed he hadn't installed it yet. And the Wildcats almost won anyway, because they didn't crumble when given multiple opportunities to do so.

Kentucky needed everything that happened to it on Tuesday. This team needed to be drop-kicked into a caustic, granular situation to determine how far it was from where it needed to be. The overall response makes it safe to assume that the Wildcats will get to that point where they get most everything right, maybe sooner than later. "We were just fighting," Knox said after posting a game-high 20 points. "A lot of people had us losing by 20, 30 points. We said before the game we weren't letting that happen. If we can keep playing like that, later on in the year, we're going to be really good."

It's always about trajectory in Lexington, at least in mid-November. The annual roster overhaul undermines any comfortable conclusions about Kentucky's identity this early, and especially this early this year, considering about 93 percent of the scoring from last year has departed. More often than not, for the other three participants, the Champions Classic offers clues about how good they are.

More often than not, for Calipari's club, it drops some bread crumbs about how good the Wildcats can be. "You can only learn about your team in games like this," Calipari said.

We learned that Kentucky can respond. The loss to Kansas, in its own way, was a better effort than the skin-of-their-teeth home win over Vermont on Sunday. Or at least it was arguably more important. A Kansas squad entirely content to make the game ugly ran out to an early 11-point lead and collected a preposterous 15 offensive rebounds in the first half alone. (Much of that was attributable to shooting a bunch of three-pointers that resulted in long rebounds, but still.) Then the Wildcats settled in, started making shots and scraped back to take their first lead 2:18 before halftime. And when Calipari informed his players at the break that they were all but guaranteed to lose if they didn't fix the rebounding problem, they acted upon that advice, finishing plus-11 on the glass in the second half.

We also learned that there will be more Give it to Kevin plays, and that probably is a smart thing. Knox, the 6-9 forward and top-rated prospect in this latest freshman haul, has a silken enough stroke to elicit surprise when a shot attempt doesn't result in a score. It will take more time, but the fits and starts and failures of Tuesday night might represent the first steps toward Kentucky's having a clear idea about

a late-game or late-clock go-to option. "My first two games I struggled shooting the ball," said Knox, who had hit a gruesome 26.1 percent of his attempts. "I know I gotta keep shooting. So I kept shooting tonight. My jump shot was falling, the floater was falling. I gotta keep shooting and not let my misses affect my play."

There are other things we figured we knew already, reinforced by Tuesday's result. Kentucky's length can bother just about anyone; Kansas's occasional penchant for cross-court passing usually led to a deflection or a steal, and the Wildcats blocked 10 shots. And Calipari is still in search of a point guard. Quade Green passed through the night virtually unnoticed (six points, two assists) while Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had six turnovers to just three assists. So the coach will go back to coaching this team harder than he's ever coached any of his Kentucky teams — his hyperbole from the postgame dais, not our words — and bet that this game firmed up the terrain underfoot. There are consequential questions and there are hints of good things to come, and come every November in Lexington, they always just hope there's more of the latter than the former.

"What this game does early in the season — if you can stand to watch it, because I know it wasn't very pretty — it makes you more aware of who you are," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "That's always good."

It can't hurt. So we learned Kentucky wasn't entirely ready for Tuesday. But it looked close enough to ready to keep the narrative of an eventual springtime surge intact. "We're a ways away [from] what we need to be," Calipari said. "But to play in a game like this, in that environment, and have a chance to win — wow."

This was a game and a response Kentucky needed. We'll see how that shapes the answers still to come, one way or another.

Calipari practices patience in win over ETSU

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Nov. 17, 2017

In addition to coaching his team, Kentucky head coach John Calipari has had to coach himself every day of this season.

Leading his most inexperienced team – of many inexperienced teams – at Kentucky, Coach Cal has repeatedly had to preach patience to himself. He's told his players that when he gets mad to remind him they're trying, they're young and it's going to take time.

After Friday night's 78-61 win over East Tennessee State at Rupp Arena, a game marred by sloppy play, turnovers and poor foul shooting, Calipari reminded himself of that.

"Here's what I love about this team," Calipari said. "They're trying to do what I'm asking them to do. I don't want to get frustrated. I did today because I thought guys got selfish. And I don't know if it was selfish and they, or they just don't know. But I know this: A bunch of great guys that do want to please me. You know how lucky I am to be coaching guys like that? And I got to keep reminding myself of that, because I want them to be better every night out."

During much of UK's win over ETSU (1-2), it was not better than it was the previous time out when it hung with No. 4/3 Kansas on a neutral floor before losing by four points.

For the third time in four games, Kentucky (3-1) fell behind by double-digits, and for the third time in four games Kentucky got off to a slow start, trailing by 10 points less than eight minutes after the opening tip.

Coach Cal is trying to remain patient with his group, yes, but if something needs to be addressed he's going to address it.

"I have a responsibility to help each of these kids grow individually and collectively," Calipari said. "That's my responsibility. And if I see a guy slipping, just because he's going to try to do things the way he wants to do them or is going to try, I gotta say something and I got to be firm about it."

His message was firm during and after UK's win against ETSU.

"He felt like we came out selfish at the beginning and we weren't focused and we didn't rebound or play great defense," UK freshman forward PJ Washington said, "so we got a lot of stuff to work on."

Among the areas that need fixing will be starting games with more fight. Kentucky trailed by nine at halftime to Utah Valley. It trailed Kansas by 11 less than six minutes into the game. And then there was Friday's game at home when it was down 18-8.

"I didn't think some guys were engaged with their team," Coach Cal said of UK's start. "So, I'm watching and you got one guy that's kind of just out there. He's not engaged with his team. Well, you can't be out there. I don't know what to tell you. Can't be out there."

Another area needing work is at the foul line, where Kentucky hit just three of its 15 free-throw attempts. The struggle at the line came as a bit of a surprise after UK was shooting 71.9 percent at the line for the season entering the game, including an 18-for-23 (.783) outing against Vermont.

"As a team, in the previous games we haven't really shot the ball that bad from the line," UK freshman forward Kevin Knox said. "I don't know what was up tonight, but Cal definitely said we're shooting free throws (Saturday). I'm pretty sure that won't happen again. We're not a bad free-throw shooting team."

The balancing act for Calipari is toeing the line between being firm and being patient. Between being as hard on this team in practice as any he's had at UK, and then in games dialing back, encouraging and cheering them on.

And ultimately for him, just like for the team, it's going to be a process.

"I would tell our fans, just enjoy this because I'm the one dying," Calipari said. "You should be enjoying it, watching these kids. We got great kids. I'm just here to tell you that really solid, good kids that I've been very tough on and probably dragging them faster than they really are capable of doing this."

And he does that for a reason, too. Calipari says that by pushing players and making them do things they don't think they're capable of doing, they will end up doing more than they ever thought they could originally.

"Then by the end of the year," Calipari said, "they start saying, 'Wow, you know what, we can do this.' "

Fortunately for Calipari and Kentucky, it's not the end of the year. It's very much the beginning of the year. The team will practice both Saturday and Sunday, watching film and playing ball both days, before then facing Troy on Monday, their fifth game in 11 days.

"I'm excited about this team," Calipari said, "but I'm just, I wanted them better today than they were probably capable of being."

After a hopeful half against Troy, Cats suffer another bout of growing pains

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Nov. 21, 2017

It is often painful to watch John Calipari coach his team right now. Exhausting at best. He almost never sits down, instead storming up and down the sideline, gyrating and howling, stomping and snorting, whirling and pleading.

As Kentucky managed to turn a 21-point, second-half lead into a needlessly stressful 70-62 win over Troy on Monday night, the Tasmanian devilish Calipari looked like he might bore his way right through the hardwood at Rupp Arena.

"I had to battle them too much in the

second half," he said afterward. "I've got to teach them how to win."

Then he launched into the latest version of the same speech he's been giving fans since this summer, which boils down to: Settle in. This is going to be a long, often ugly process. And yes, he says something sort of like that every season thanks to unprecedented roster turnover at Kentucky, but he means longer and uglier than usual this time.

And it's already testing the patience of a coach who has been trying to remind himself to remain positive.

"He tries to sit back and let us play, but sometimes he has to step up and put his foot down," sophomore forward Wenyen Gabriel said. "He had to. He was loud [in the second half Monday]. It was almost like he was in the Kansas game again, Cal over there yelling and stuff. But he's just trying to challenge us to be good."

Despite its ranking (eighth in the Associated Press poll) and its record (4-1), Kentucky is not particularly good right now. But the Wildcats, who've started five freshmen every game this season, flirted with being good for a little more than a half.

They led by 16 at intermission, when they had only 4 turnovers, were plus-15 on the glass and held the Trojans to 29 percent shooting. That lead grew to 21 barely 2 minutes into the second half. Just when Kentucky was revving its engine, however, the darn thing stalled.

The Wildcats, whose half-court offense continues to be a mess, turned it over a 11 times in the final 18 minutes and only made one field goal — in 10 tries — over the last 8 minutes. They also missed the front end of two 1-and-1s at the line in the final minute.

Calipari, stomping around the sideline for the entire second half, looked like a man trying to find the gas pedal again.

"For 20 minutes, man, I thought we were good," he said, later revising it to great. But he knew what was coming. A team this young, "they will revert, they let go, they go back to their old ways. And that's the fight. Whether it's going to take a loss to a team that we should beat and they all get together and say, 'We gotta stop,' I don't know.

"You just don't have let-downs when you're up 21 and you're ready to bury somebody and you just start acting like it doesn't matter anymore. That's old AAU, high school stuff."

To be fair, most of his key players were in high school just a few months ago. Viewed that way, it was impressive that point guard Quade Green and forward Kevin Knox combined for 30 points on 12-of-22 shooting in their fifth college game. And that Nick Richards rebounded from a rough start to his career with 8 points and 8 rebounds Monday.

"That's something we can build off, definitely," said Gabriel, who had 12 points, 6 rebounds and 2 blocks but was also guilty of a few selfish plays that have defined UK's disjointed offense thus far. "Our focus disappeared. I know Cal's going to say that's what young teams do and we've got to stop letting go of the rope. That's one of the things we've got to work on if we want to be a championship team."

Knox having no trouble shouldering heavy load

By: Guy Ramsey | UK Athletics | Nov. 26, 2017

Kevin Knox has been counted on as Kentucky's most consistent scorer in the early going this season. UK needs Knox scoring, particularly when the offense stalls otherwise.

"Cal talked to me the other day about making sure there's not (too much) pressure on me and stuff like that," Knox said. "But I told him I'm fine. I'm good with where my team's at."

Knox proved his ability to cope once more on Sunday.

Knox reached double figures for the seventh time in as many games to start the season. He scored a career- and game-high 25 points to lead the No. 8/8 Wildcats (6-1) to a 107-73 win over UIC (2-3).

In spite of shooting better than 40 percent from deep entering the game, Knox didn't make a single trey in four attempts this time out. He found a way to score anyway by hitting all nine of his two-point shots and getting to the free-throw line a career-best 10 times, making seven.

"I'm very versatile," Knox said. "I can really do pretty much everything: get to the basket, post up, hit midrange shots. Like Cal said, I did a really good job of being able to find open spots and being able to get in the post, score early baskets in the paint. It was good. Just imagine if my 3-point shot was hitting. Just keep moving on this game, just keep getting more comfortable."

Knox is a matchup nightmare for opponents, what with his 6-foot-9 frame and deft shooting touch both inside and out. Capitalizing on that fact, Calipari sent Knox into the post more than at any point this season, where he did repeated damage.

"I think with each game, you see I'm starting to figure out Kevin, putting him in spots where he can make baskets," Calipari said.

Knox's performance came as UK played its best overall offensive game of the season. The Wildcats reached the century mark for the first time and exceeded their season-best total for points (86) reached last time out against Fort Wayne. Hamidou Diallo (19 points), PJ Washington (17) and Shai-Gilgeous Alexander (14) joined Knox in scoring career highs. Quade Green (12) and Nick Richards (11) also reached double figures in scoring.

"I'm feeling I'm getting more comfortable with the offense, playing with my teammates," Knox said. "I think we're all kind of clicking. I think this is one of our best games of the season. I think we all just clicked. We were all making shots, just played together as a team. And like Cal said, he's kind of started figuring everyone out, so that's really good for us and hopefully Cal can get us clicking more."

UK shot a scalding 66.7 percent from the field in the victory mere days after shooting 60 percent in the win over Fort Wayne. The Cats' field-goal percentage on Sunday was their highest since they shot 67.7 percent against LIU Brooklyn during the 2012-13 season.

"That's by far the best we've played," Calipari said. "We were efficient, we passed the ball, we made shots, we took one bad shot, Kevin Knox took one in the first half just like a step back with him and another guy on him. Short of that I don't think we took a bad shot. They were all good shots. They didn't all go, but they were good shots."

UK will carry that momentum into its longest in-season break between games to date, with the Cats not taking the floor again until next Saturday vs. Harvard.

"I'm really happy my team's just winning," Knox said. "Tonight was a really great win. Hopefully we can capitalize on it. I think I'm getting better and better every day and I'm just going to grow on this."

Has UK found a solution to shooting woes? Less may be more for 3-pointers

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal |Dec. 1, 2017

Kentucky entered the season with significant questions about 3-point shooting.

Seven games into the season, John Calipari and his squad appear to have found an answer:

Less is more.

"Someone said, 'Well, you're not taking a whole lot of 3s,'" Calipari said. "Well, when you shoot 66 percent like we did (against Illinois-Chicago), and you're getting it around the goal, and you're shooting at

that high a percentage, if you're going to shoot a bunch of 3s, you're going to have to shoot 41, 40 percent and not many teams are doing it."

Kentucky is shooting 37.6 percent from 3-point range this season. That mark would be the third-best of any UK team in the Calipari era, but the Wildcats are averaging the 2.8 fewer 3-point attempts per game (12.1) than the previous low in that span.

UK has converted fewer than one-third of its 3-point attempts in just one of its first seven games – the loss to Kansas. Twice UK has shot at least 45 percent from 3-point range.

Freshman forward Kevin Knox has attempted 31 3-pointers this season, converting 35.5 percent of those shots. No other UK players has attempted more than 16 3s. Only four Wildcats have shot at least 10 3-pointers this season.

Knox missed all four of his 3-point attempts in the win over Illinois-Chicago Sunday, but point guard Quade Green – UK's leading 3-point shooter on the season at 50 percent – hit 2 of 3 shots from long range. Point guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander hit his third 3-pointer of the season on six attempts. Sophomore forward Wenyen Gabriel made 1 of 2 3s to bring his season total to 5 for 15.

"Normally (Knox) is not going to miss all those, but I don't mind him taking four 3s," Calipari said. "I don't want him taking seven or eight threes. Quade goes 2 for 3. He probably should have shot five or six. He's the one guy that I would say and you would say, 'Let him shoot more threes,' and I'm telling him to."

The player projected to be Kentucky's best shooter this season, freshman guard Jemarl Baker, has yet to play this season and is out for the foreseeable future with a knee injury.

Kentucky's best shooting guards, Green and Gilgeous-Alexander, both play primarily with the ball in their hands. The search for more 3-point shooting in the backcourt has earned sophomore walk-on Brad Calipari a brief cameo in recent weeks.

Starting guard Hamidou Diallo was not considered to be a strong shooter entering the season but has silenced some doubters by converting 35.7 percent (5 for 14) of his 3-point attempts this season.

"It's all about confidence," Diallo said. "That's what it's really all about. At the end of the day if you feel confident about a shot, you're going to shoot it."

Diallo insisted Calipari has given him no direction about how many 3s he should attempt per game, but the coach has issued a clear edict about which type of 3-pointers his players should take.

"He's really big on once the ball gets in the lane and kicked out, that's when he kind of wants you to shoot 3s if you're open," Knox said. "If the ball is swinging on the perimeter, he doesn't really want 3s."

Calipari is directing Green to quickly get rid of the ball after bringing it up the court with the plan his teammates will be able to eventually return it to Green for open shots. If the freshman point guard can follow that plan, Kentucky's 3-point attempts are likely to increase as the season progresses.

And perhaps those shooting questions will end for good.

"He don't mind us taking 3s, especially if we're wide open," Knox said. "...We have some guys that really can shoot the 3-point shot, so if we can get in the lane and get the defense to collapse we can be able to knock down shots."

Former Cats grateful for Calipari's kindness toward Joe B. Hall: 'It extends his life'

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Nov. 30, 2017

Joe B. Hall turns 89 on Thursday. If you want to feel old, there's this: he retired as Kentucky basketball coach 32 years ago.

Not counting his baby days, Hall has had literally a lifelong attachment to University of Kentucky basketball. A fan from childhood. Later a player. Then assistant coach. Then head coach for 13 seasons. Then, after retirement in 1985 . . . what felt like nothing. Under new management, the Big Blue circus left him behind.

"I hated to be totally excluded," he said recently.

Enter John Calipari in 2009. He welcomed Hall back. He reminded the BBN about Hall's contributions. He joked about Hall's (unpaid) advice in practices. Maybe not so coincidentally, the crowd roared louder than ever whenever Hall appeared on the Rupp Arena video boards or came to center court, more recently with the aid of a cane, to do the "Y" in the K-E-N-T-U-C-K-Y cheer.

"He really did a great job of encouraging me to come to practice," Hall said of Calipari. "And he stayed close to me, and kept me a part of the program."

When asked what this kindness meant to him, Hall said simply, "Everything."

After a pause, he added, "I'm at that age where you appreciate that attention. It's an age where you're not that useful, but you appreciate someone thinking you are. So that's a good feeling."

Family, friends and former players saluted Calipari for reuniting Hall and UK basketball.

"Cal treats him like he should be treated," said Lexington-based lawyer Terry McBrayer, a longtime friend of Hall. "I love it for Joe."

Ex-Cat Jerry Hale said, "I think it's wonderful. I mean, it really is."

One of Hall's sons-in-law, Mike Summers, the Louisville offensive line coach, said, "I couldn't say enough thank yous."

Of Calipari's kindness toward Hall, former UK player and current Toronto Raptors coach Dwane Casey said, "It extends his life . . . (Hall) perks up. He may not ever admit it but, believe me, it adds so many more years."

The Calipari-Hall friendship follows a pattern. During earlier college coaching jobs, Calipari befriended former coaches at Massachusetts and Memphis.

At UMass, he arrived as a 29-year-old novice head coach. Jack Leaman had been coach when the Minutemen players included Julius Erving and Rick Pitino. Leaman was revered in New England as a coach and master tactician.

"Jack was a great mentor to him, and a great help to him," Leaman's widow, Rita, said. "But Jack never interfered and never offered anything that John didn't ask for. They just became very, very close."

Matt Vautour, a sportswriter with the Daily Hampshire Gazette, said that among Leaman's contributions was being able to bring soothing perspective to Calipari's anxieties.

"When John wanted to kill everybody else, whether it was his own players, the media, the NCAA, whenever he was mad at anybody, Jack was always someone he could kind of talk to and calm him down," Vautour said.

"I think he trusted Jack implicitly. That whatever he was telling him, he always had John's best interests at heart. I don't know if Cal necessarily always thinks of people that way."

Vautour said Calipari was responsible for a "very happy last chapter" in Leaman's life.

"That kind of elder consigliere was something I think he enjoyed a lot," the sportswriter said of Leaman. "Jack loved basketball and he loved basketball coaches. And to think somebody as on the rise and driven and successful as John was becoming looked to him for advice, I think meant a ton to him."

Leaman, who died in 2004, was also the analyst on radio broadcasts of UMass games during Calipari's time as coach.

"It was a relationship that just took off," Rita Leaman said. "It was just wonderful for

Jack. He felt still very much a part of UMass basketball even though he was no longer the coach. John makes a lot of people feel that way."

Howard Davis, the UMass sports information director at the time, said Calipari was instrumental in the school naming its basketball court for Leaman.

By then, Calipari was the coach at Memphis. Vautour recalled Calipari flying on a private jet to be at the ceremony naming the court for Leaman before a noon game. Vautour said Memphis had a home game at 7 p.m. Central Time.

"Jack meant that much to him to be there," Vautour said.

Rita Leaman said that Calipari stays in contact. It's no surprise when he visits her and her daughter when he's in New England. Mother and daughter attended Calipari's 2015 induction ceremony into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Gene Bartow was the revered former coach when Calipari arrived in Memphis in 1999. He had guided Memphis to the 1973 Final Four and came within a one-for-the-ages performance by Bill Walton of winning a national championship.

In 1999, Bartow worked in the Memphis Grizzlies front office. He helped bring together the new coach and the Memphis community. An enduring friendship was born.

"When my dad got stomach cancer, John was just incredible," Bartow's son, Murry, said.

Whenever he was in Birmingham, where Bartow lived after retiring as UAB coach, Calipari would call or visit or both. When the phone would ring early in the morning, knowing Calipari regularly attended Mass, the Bartows knew before answering the phone who might be calling.

"As his son, I'm just emotional thinking about it," Murry Bartow said of Calipari's kindness to his father. "That friendship has meant a great deal to our family."

Bartow died in 2012. In the last year or so of his life, he rarely left the house. It meant a lot to the Bartows that Calipari took time to visit.

"As busy as he is . . . ," Murry Bartow said. "By gosh, those are things as a family you don't forget."

As with the Leamans, Calipari kept in touch with the family after Bartow died. When Kentucky won the 2012 national championship, he sent Bartow's widow, Ruth, a commemorative necklace, Murry Bartow said.

To ask why Calipari does these things brings a variety of responses. Hall said the Kentucky coach is "good-hearted." He recalled how Calipari invited his former players to share the stage at his Hall of Fame induction.

"To me, it's pretty simple," Murry Bartow said. "I just think he has a compassionate heart. I just think some people are wired that way, and some aren't."

Davis, the former UMass sports information director, said he still stays involved in basketball by keeping the official scorebook at a high school tournament during the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. If Kentucky has a recruiting interest in a player, Calipari attends.

"I see him once a year," Davis said. "He sees me. He breaks away from everybody, comes up and gives me a big hug. No one had to tell him to do that."

Vautour, the sportswriter, used words like "sentimental" and "complicated" to try to explain the kindnesses Calipari shows. He recalled how Calipari quietly returned to New England to attend the funeral of Milt Cole, a former sports editor and columnist for the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

"I think there's a part of him underneath JOHN CALIPARI, all capital letters, who is sentimental," Vautour said, "who relishes certain things like that."

Of course, as Calipari would likely tell you, this thoughtful compassionate persona stands in contrast with the man who is reviled in certain basketball circles as a cheater and huckster whose reliance on one-and-done players mocks the idea of a college education having anything to do with his sport.

Jealousy fuels the criticism, Hall said. "Then some people take it as arrogance when you're so cool like he is."

Davis and Vautour said that those who dislike Calipari cannot be persuaded to reassess the man.

One final irony: Calipari is a seemingly tireless promoter of his Kentucky basketball program.

"I know he was a marketing major in college," Hall said. "But he didn't even need the schooling. He is a master at marketing."

Yet, his acts of kindness — which would surely touch the heart of a prospect's mother — go largely unsung.

"With our family, it's been all behind the scenes," Murry Bartow said, "and, really, no one other than close friends knows this."

Rita Leaman said she appreciated the chance to talk about Calipari's kindness.

"If somebody else is going to point it out, that's wonderful," she said. "Because I don't think he'd ever point it out."

PJ Washington starting to feel more comfortable on the court, keeping eye on goal

By: Keith Taylor | Northern Kentucky Tribune | Dec. 1, 2017

PJ Washington admitted his first seven games at Kentucky didn't start off with a bang, but the freshman forward is optimistic he can build on recent performances against University own Illinois-Chicago and Troy going into Saturday's contest against Harvard.

"I started off pretty slow, but I feel like I'm picking it up," Washington said Thursday. "I'm just trying to pick it up a little bit more."

Washington has taken advantage of the team's six-day break — the longest of the season — by simply spending more time in the gym, working on all phases of his game, especially defense and rebounding.

"I"m just getting in the gym and working on my game," Washington said. "It's getting in the gym, getting shots up and just getting better with my teammates every day."

Overall, Washington said Kentucky coach John Calipari's main emphasis in practice has been improving on the defensive end.

"(We've been working on) just talking, getting rebounds and just trying to stop other teams from scoring and then (getting) out on the fast break and transition. Defense (has been) the big topic all year. I feel like if we get good on defense, there's not a lot of teams that can beat us."

Washington, considered one of the top prospects in the current freshman class, admitted the transition from high school to college is somewhat harder than he originally envisioned. Washington said in high school, "you can do whatever you want" and at the college level "They're not letting you get by with that."

"It's harder than what I expected," Washington said. "But, everything is about what I thought it would be. The biggest adjustment (has been) playing with great guys like this every day. In high school, you don't get a chance to do this unless you're on an all-star team of something like that. All (my teammates) are great and they have a very bright future.

"You've got to just basically bust your tail every day and work hard."

Although one of the team's most consistent players, Washington is seeking more drive on both ends of the floor.

"(Coach Calipari emphasizes) my motor, and bringing it on both ends of the floor every time, with every possession and just fighting," Washington said. "It's definitely an adjustment because in high school you can really do what you want. And then on

the college level, they're not letting you get by with that. You got great players. You gotta just basically bust your tail every day and work hard."

In order to help his players attain higher goals, Calipari has one-on-one individual meetings with his team, including Washington.

"He tries to have meetings with everybody." Washington said. "We'll have a day off and he'll just meet with everybody. He's done that a couple times."

Washington said the meetings are beneficial.

"The best thing I took from it is he's always on my side and he wants me to do good, he said. "Basically, he said he's there for me as long as I do what he says."

Although the grind of a long season has just begun, Washington said the team's goal remains unchanged.

"(The goal is to) win a national championship," he said. "That's the main goal for us and we just have to get better each and every day."

Under the national radar, Kevin Knox is off to a solid start

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec. 2, 2017

Though he has been under the radar, Knox fits in quite nicely, actually.

Just because Bagley, Sexton, Jackson and Young, among others, have been hogging the early-season limelight doesn't mean that the 6-foot-9 forward from Tampa, Fla., hasn't lived up to his preseason billing as the highest-ranked recruit in John Calipari's 2017 class. Far from it.

In fact, after scoring 20 points and grabbing seven rebounds to lead the Cats to a 79-70 win over Harvard in Rupp Arena on Saturday, you can make the case that Knox has been a model of consistency through the first eight games of his collegiate career.

He has scored in double figures in all eight games, including three games where he's scored 20 or more. He has never scored fewer than 11 points. He's grabbed six or more rebounds in six of his eight games. He has been to the free-throw line four or more times in six of the eight, as well.

Through eight games, Knox leads the team in minutes per game at 35.2. He leads the Cats in scoring at 16.6 per game and in made three-pointers with 13. He's second in rebounds at 5.9 per game and second in steals with nine, behind fellow freshman Shai Gilgeous-Alexander's 20 steals.

He's making 70.3 percent of his free-throw attempts, and also has 13 assists and five blocked shots.

"I'm getting better," Knox said on Saturday. "I struggled early in the season, but I'm starting to realize and starting to figure out my role on this team. Cal is figuring out how I need to play. I'm starting to figure out how Cal wants me to play and that's good."

Has Knox seen the other freshmen play, like Bagley and Sexton and Jackson and Young? Does he keep up with the rest of the notables in his rookie class?

"I love watching college basketball," Knox said. "I just watch games that are on TV. I don't watch anybody in particular. If I see college basketball on TV I watch it. I was watching before I came out here (for interviews) the Syracuse and Kansas game. That's just something I do."

On the floor, Calipari thinks Knox can do more. Though Knox is obviously a terrific three-point threat, Calipari doesn't want the freshman always floating around the perimeter. He wants Knox to also take it to the basket, post up, expand his game.

"I liked that Kevin was driving the ball and doing some good stuff that way," Calipari said Saturday. "But we've got a ways to go."

The coach was speaking of his whole team. So far, to Cal's way of thinking, his young Cats are playing decent basketball, but not winning basketball. Too many mistakes. Too many times of letting opponents back in games.

Then again, we just crossed into December. The season is still young. And while several first-year stars have figured prominently in the first month, don't leave UK's first-year star out of the conversation.

"I've had some really good practices and I'm starting to come around," Knox said. "I think I'm playing really well, I've just got to keep it up."

Trust the process: Inside Kentucky's youth movement

By: Seth Davis | The Athletic | Dec. 4, 2017

A bell is rung, striking a somber yet hopeful tone, and everyone in the auditorium stands. The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Lexington is called to order.

The first item on the agenda is an invocation. As we project to the future, we pray for wisdom that we might know Your will… Next is a rendition of the state university's fight song. On, On, U of K. We are right for the fight today… Then comes the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by some official business. A report by the facilities committee. A lottery to give away $538. The presentation of a $3,000 check to an adventure center for troubled youth and veterans. Recognition of a local resident who is celebrating his 100th birthday. His secret, we are told, is a glass of bourbon every afternoon and some chocolates after dinner.

The ceremonial business is conducted quickly, because everyone is eager to hear the guest speaker, the man for whom the bell always tolls in this state. John Calipari, now in his ninth season as Kentucky's basketball coach, ambles to the podium on two surgically repaired hips, his cream-colored button-down shirt untucked and hanging over khaki slacks. Today also happens to be Ellen Calipari's birthday (he brought his wife breakfast in bed and gave her flowers) as well as that of former UK basketball coach Joe B. Hall (his 89th). Calipari, 58, is in a good mood, but he's not feeling preachy. Instead of delivering opening remarks, he says simply, "Why don't I just open it up to questions? I'll answer whatever."

For the next 45 minutes, Calipari goes deep but keeps things light. He explains how he can motivate his players ("You're coming here to see the best version of yourself"), partly because he never was much of a player himself. ("I tell them I was small, but I was slow.") He explains how he encourages his former players who are in the NBA to employ more than one financial adviser so they can watch each other. ("I have four. Two of you may get me, but not all four.") He reveals that he recently spoke to Derrick Rose, his point guard at Memphis, for nearly an hour as Rose sorts out what to do with his life. Calipari mentions that another former player, Kyle Wiltjer, sent a text message that morning passing along birthday wishes for Ellen. Calipari takes special pride in sharing this because Wiltjer transferred to Gonzaga following his sophomore year at Kentucky. "That's how this is supposed to work," he says. "It's not personal."

Finally, Calipari is asked the question that everyone really wants answered. "What do you think the chances are that in about four-plus months, you all will be hoisting a big trophy?" Now it's time to strike a somber yet hopeful tone. "I'm trying to stay in the moment and keep these kids in the moment," Calipari says. "I really have to figure out how to have fun, which is why I'm in bed at nine o'clock every night. My wife's getting mad."

Calipari has long proved masterly at guiding callow teams deep into March, but even by his standards, the 2017-18 Wildcats are young. In fact, they're historically young. They have started five freshmen in each of their eight games. Their three top

reserves are a freshmen and two sophomores, one of whom averaged 6.4 minutes last season. Not only is Kentucky ranked last in the country in experience on Ken Pomeroy's analytics website, but their average of 0.2 years is also the lowest on record since Pomeroy launched his site 11 years ago.

And yet – gonnngg – here they are, ranked No. 7 in The Associated Press Top 25 with a 7-1 record. Their lone loss came by just four points to No. 2 Kansas in Chicago. According to Kenpom.com, they are ranked ninth in the country in defensive efficiency and 21st in offensive efficiency. For most teams, the narrative would focus on how good they are. For Kentucky, the only question that matters is how good they will be in about four-plus months.

There have been a couple of scares. The Wildcats trailed Utah Valley by 12 points in the second half of the season opener before going on an 18-0 burst and winning by 10. In the next game, they were fortunate to squeeze by Vermont, 73-69. Kentucky games toggle maddeningly between rhythmic synchronicity and boneheaded turnovers, between highlight-quality finishes and lazy defensive lapses. Calipari is constantly reminding everyone that this team is a work in progress — or rather, in process. That process must always be pushed but cannot be rushed. These things take time.

As he answers the Rotarian's question, Calipari explains how when he was building his program at UMass in the 1980s and early '90s, he sought to schedule top teams early in the season. "We played Kentucky, if you remember, in Detroit — and beat them," he says, eliciting laughs. "But it was November. Arkansas, we beat in November. Both of those teams won the national title. We beat North Carolina in November. So now I'm at Kentucky. When does everybody want to play us? November….I heard somebody say, 'Florida would smash us if we played today.' We ain't playing today! We got a month and a half."

For all of their big-blue expectations, Kentucky fans understand this. They can be patient, to a point. When Calipari tells his audience to "enjoy this ride, don't go crazy when they don't play well, they're not machines," he is also talking to himself. And yet his quest to acquire a state of Zen is coupled with a tinge of the conspiratorial edge that forever will be a part of his makeup. He often reminds his players that there are a lot of haters out there who want to see them fail, lots of older teams who are itching for a fight. They better work hard each and every day if they want to be ready to answer the bell.

One-handed rebounds drive him crazy. That's why he is screaming like a madman and squeezing a basketball as he stands in the middle of the practice court at the Joe Craft Center on a Thursday afternoon.

Calipari has interrupted what appeared to be a simple drill. His players were scattered around the gym, lofting balls underhanded at backboards, grabbing them with two hands as they came off and letting out a guttural scream. Only the players weren't screaming gutturally enough to the coach's liking, so now he is demonstrating how to do it properly. Not the rebounding part. The screaming.

"AAAAAyyyyy-aaaaah!!!!" he shouts. "I want you to scream that you're getting the ball! You can scream like a lion — AAAAAyyyyy-aaaaah!!!! – or you can scream like a lamb. Eeeeeeee! Go!"

The next afternoon, while sitting in his palatial office that overlooks the court, Calipari explains the purpose of the exercise. "That's from my UMass days," he says. "Let the guy know you're there. Let him know who you're rebounding against." He changes the subject, as he tends to do, and repeats a clever line, as he also tends to do. "I don't understand how anybody coaches a young team. Either you're not coaching in games or you're not doing anything in practice. I'm a little bit older, but I'm not old. I'm in bed by nine every night. My wife's getting mad."

Calipari doesn't watch a lot of video with his team, and he leaves the individual workouts to his assistants. He'd rather save his energy for practice, where he is completely hands on, with no letup, for 150 minutes straight. While his assistants stand on the sideline, offering instructions here and there but mostly observing, Calipari serves as director, choreographer and conductor, halting the action frequently to correct small mistakes, barking out feedback, teasing, cajoling, all the while pacing back and forth to a white folding table to glance at his practice plan. For a guy who is prone to rhetorical flourishes, Calipari is surprisingly detail-oriented. "He is as technically sound as any coach you'll ever meet," ESPN analyst Jay Bilas says. "And he's unfailingly honest in the moment. He tells his guys exactly what's going on. They don't get away with anything."

That starts in recruiting. Calipari wants prospects to understand that if they choose Kentucky, they will be subjected to a level of attention that many NBA players don't have to deal with, much less college guys. Every day in practice, they will be challenged. When they leave the gym, cameras, microphones and cell phones will track their every move. It is not for everyone. Three years ago, Calipari pursued Jaylen Brown, a highly ranked small forward out of Marietta, Ga., who is now a member of the Boston Celtics. Brown was intrigued by Kentucky, but he told the coaches that he preferred to maintain a semblance of privacy. He chose California instead. Calipari respected Brown's reasoning and wished him well. It wasn't personal.

Once on campus, the players are put into a 24/7 preparation machine. They get professional media training and seminars on social media. (A meeting has been scheduled for later in the season with members of Twitter's sports team.) They are subjected to brutal conditioning programs and workouts designed to expand their skill sets. Early on, Calipari devotes a lot of time to whittling away at their high school habits. Few of his players have ever been asked to defend hard, largely because their coaches didn't want them getting into foul trouble. On offense, they would take as many shots as they wanted. As he does every fall, Calipari asked each player to give his scoring average. He then wrote the numbers on a board and totaled them up. "Well, unless we're gonna score about 260 points a game," he said, "somebody's going to have to give up something."

Calipari will drop an occasional S- or F-bomb in practice, but it is usually done in jest or exasperation. He uses teasing and sarcasm to get under a guy's skin, and he's damn good at it. His goal is to correct a player's every mistake without making him feel like he is giving up on him. Tony Barbee played for Calipari at UMass from 1989-93 and has been his assistant coach for 11 seasons at three colleges. Barbee cannot remember Calipari ever throwing a player out of practice.

It is a delicate balancing act – impose discipline without being discouraging, be demanding without becoming demeaning. During games, Calipari has a quick hook if he sees someone not running hard or diving for a loose ball, but he is just as quick to throw that fish back in the water. During a game against Illinois-Chicago, he yanked 6-foot-7 freshman forward P.J. Washington for failing to rotate in man-to-man defense. Washington took his seat on the bench and complained to associate head coach Kenny Payne, "Can I play through that one mistake?" Payne started to explain to Washington that he shouldn't pout because he'd be going back in soon, but before he could finish his point, Calipari sent Washington to the scorer's table.

"When I was in college, coaches thought they had to break you down to build you up," says Payne, who played on Louisville's

1986 NCAA championship team and spent four years in the NBA. "Kids today have big dreams. You can't break them down. They've got to know you believe in them."

Which is not to say Calipari protects his guys when things aren't going well. When he spies a weakness, he homes in on it mercilessly. If a player tosses up a bunch of errant shots, Calipari will order him to keep firing, misses be damned. He will usually wait until the kid makes a basket before subbing him out. "I'm not exposing them. I'm challenging them to bust through their fears," he says. "If a guy misses four free throws in a row, I will get him fouled again. I'm telling the team in the huddle, 'Throw him the ball.' So you better have some nuts, kid. You better figure this out. If you're embarrassed, get your ass in the gym and fix it."

It is not easy for a player to expand his skill set while learning an entirely different way to play. Point guard Quade Green, for example, averaged 21 points per game last year for Neumann-Goretti High School in Philadelphia. Now, instead of having Green create his own shots off the dribble, Calipari wants him to set the offense in motion, give the ball up, make a proper cut, get it back and then look to score. Green has the ability, but he lacks the requisite confidence. During Kentucky's 79-70 win over Harvard last Saturday, he repeatedly turned down open shots, even though Calipari was screaming at him to let it fly. Green finished 1 for 5 from the field and didn't attempt a free throw.

Kentucky's backup point guard, 6-6 freshman Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, is not as developed offensively as Green, but he is a gifted defender who is on pace to break Rajon Rondo's single-season steals record. The team's most talented offensive player is 6-9 freshman forward Kevin Knox, who combines fluid agility with a pure shooting stroke. Calipari, however, has prodded him to be a more aggressive driver. Knox showed a glimpse of what he can do during the second half against Utah Valley, when he dribbled to his left, switched back to his right, drove down the lane and dunked with authority. That helped jump-start the second-half surge, but those moments have been few and far between.

Nick Richards, a 6-11 forward from Jamaica, also has a tendency to play soft. Each day, he is required to run a mile, do a series of bear crawls across the court, go through a 25-minute individual workout … and then go through a rigorous two-hour practice. "It's not just to get him into shape, but mentally tough," Payne says. Richards hates the conditioning work, but he was all smiles in the locker room on Nov. 22 when, following his 25-point, 15-rebound performance in a win over Fort Wayne, Calipari said to the team, "Hey, how about Nick tonight?" The players applauded. Says UK assistant Joel Justus, "To watch that child – because that's what he is – smile like that was amazing. You could see him thinking for the first time, yeah, I'm good."

Kentucky's frontline will be bolstered further in the next few weeks when Jarred Vanderbilt, a 6-8 freshman forward from Houston, returns from a foot injury he sustained in the preseason. Meanwhile, if Knox is the most polished Wildcat, then Hamidou Diallo, or Hami as everyone calls him, is the most dynamic. The 6-5, 198-pound freshman has been blessed with a rubbery athleticism. He is a capable outside shooter, but he tends to rush his moves and shoot off-balance, making him appear to be less skilled than he really is.

Yet he carries himself with a stoicism that leads you to believe he will figure it all out. Diallo was raised in Queens, N.Y., and while he is close with his parents, who hail from Africa, they did not accompany him on his official visit to Kentucky and are not attuned to his basketball development. As a result, Diallo had to navigate a pair of major situations by himself. The first was his decision to enroll at Kentucky in the spring semester last season even though he wasn't going to play in games. The second was the decision to enter the NBA draft and then withdraw after the predraft combine. Says Payne, "If someone tells you they're controlling Hamidou Diallo, they're lying."

Sometimes, the need to buttress a player's pro potential can conflict with the need to help Kentucky win. In those instances, Calipari always sides with the player. For example, at 6-7 and 236 pounds, Washington could be an effective college power forward. But Calipari is encouraging him to play like a guard because that's what he'll have to be in the NBA. When Washington reverts to his high school habits, in which he slowly shoulders defenders toward the rim instead of power-dribbling, Calipari will call him out. "He's a realist," Washington says. "He'll tell you straight up what he thinks, and he's not going to sugarcoat anything. That's what I love about him."

No wonder the Wildcats can look so disorganized. They are being asked to use skills they don't yet have. If they develop those skills by March, Kentucky has a chance to win an NCAA championship. If they don't, the players most likely will still succeed in the NBA, which fulfills the pledge Calipari made during recruiting and ultimately helps him procure players. "The moment you put the kids first, all else falls into place. That's Cal's philosophy," Payne says. "If our guys are developing, they're going to help us win games – the special games."

After five Wildcats were selected in the first round of the 2010 NBA draft, Kentucky fans criticized Calipari when he said that "we might have just had the biggest day in Kentucky basketball history." He remains unapologetic. The program is built on the promise that he will make it his priority to help his players get to the NBA. Between the locker room and the floor at Rupp Arena, players pass a huge wallpaper graphic that shows all 24 former Wildcats in their current NBA uniforms. The desk in Calipari's office in Rupp faces a wall full of framed pictures of those same players in action – not as Wildcats, but as Bulls and Wizards and Pelicans. NBA scouts and executives who visit Lexington are not only invited to watch practice but also to meet with academic advisers, tutors, compliance personnel, trainers, student managers, assistant athletic directors, even dormitory directors. "We're an open book," athletic director Mitch Barnhart says. "There are very few secrets anymore. If a young person doesn't understand that, he probably can't live in the world he wants to be in."

The same calculus feeds Calipari's reluctance to embrace a 2-3 zone defense. With its length and lack of experience, this team is tailor-made for the zone. Calipari has already used it more this season (11.5 percent of Kentucky's defensive possessions, according to Synergy) than at any time in his career. But he would never consider playing it full-time, or even most of the time. "My job is to prepare them for the rest of their life in this sport," he says. "When they leave me, they're not playing zone. So it might be better for us to play 40 minutes of zone, but it's just not better for them."

As the season wears on, Calipari hopes he won't have to be quite so hands-on during practice. He also wants the players to take on more responsibility. He has a policy that when a guy gets tired, he can sub himself out and then ask to return when he's ready. By the time Kentucky reached the NCAA Tournament last season, the players were doing almost all of the substituting themselves. Right now, however, it's early, and high school habits die hard. Calipari's players still want to play every minute possible, believing they can play through fatigue. But they can't, not the way Calipari wants them to.

So if things look disjointed now, it's no cause for alarm. The process is just beginning to take hold. Even Calipari needs to be reminded of that. On several occasions, he has invited his players to counsel him to

be patient. You need to say to me, Coach, we're great kids, we're trying. We just don't know enough yet. In a couple of months, as this team turns for the final stretch, he'll roll out the other speech he typically delivers. You're not freshmen anymore. You've seen everything. You played one of the toughest schedules in the country. You know how to win. Payne has seen the cycle time and again. "We're not at that point yet," he says, "but it's coming."

Calipari has stacks of books piled up around his office. They are mostly about leadership; he calls novels "a waste, no disrespect." He likes to scavenge through the pages for nuggets. When he finds something he really likes, he will send his players a group text message.

He pulls out his phone and reads aloud a long text he had sent a few days earlier. "Anything worth doing is going to suck at the beginning," he says. "Anything worth doing is meant to require pain and sacrifice. When something sucks or becomes hard, most people quit. In fact, I would argue most people don't even start. You were built to deal with adversity. Why not test your limits? When you feel fatigue, push on and focus more. It sucks and it's painful, but that's the medicine that gets you right. We are trending up. Stay hungry and humble." He puts the phone down. "I read that somewhere, something about 'it sucks.' The rest of it was mine."

Practice wrapped up an hour ago. By the end of the workout, Calipari's normally groomed coiffure was disheveled, the result of more than two hours of running his fingers through it, scratching his scalp, giving his mane the occasional tug. "You've got to have a lot of energy to do it like this," Bilas said as he watched the session. "It's not like there are older guys around to teach the younger ones what to do. It's all on him. He's got to reteach everything every year." Now Calipari is freshly showered, and he looks content but tired. Has he mentioned he goes to bed at nine every night? Or that his wife's getting mad?

He could make things easier on himself, of course. Simply bring in a couple of players who are not likely to turn pro after their freshman year. Calipari dismisses this idea. In the first place, he says, high school seniors who are ranked, say, between 50 and 100 think they're one-and-done, too. "So now I'm dealing with a delusional kid," he says. Nor does he take graduate transfers, because he feels it's unfair to hurt another program. Once in a while, he will sign an in-state player who doesn't mind sitting for a couple of seasons – last year's team had two such late-bloomers in 6-foot guard Dominique Hawkins and 6-9 forward Derek Willis, both seniors – but that is easier said than done. "They've got to be good enough to play here at some point," he says. "If I'm going to recruit a kid and say, 'I want you to not play for two years and then hopefully play for two years,' why would you come here?"

So his teams are ageless and evergreen. And yet he continually drills into his players that they do things that veteran teams do: Defend. Rebound. Dive for loose balls. Run hard. Play through fatigue. Those, after all, are the things that propel a team deep into the NCAA Tournament. You can't answer the bell without them. "Somebody else may say, 'We're gonna beat you with 3s.' Good luck. Try to win six in a row making 3s. I wish you well," he says. "We're gonna try to beat you with defense and rebounding and size."

Six in a row is hard no matter how experienced your roster is, but what about four in a row, which would put Kentucky back in the Final Four for the fifth time in nine years? Or three in a row, which would be good for a seventh Elite Eight? That would not be surprising in the least. "They've got size, they've got depth. They're going to get really good defensively because of their length," Kansas coach Bill Self says. "Once they figure out how to play offensively to all their respective skill sets, I think they're going to be just as good as they were last year."

Until then, Kentucky fans will have to, well, trust the process. Everyone's patience will be tested. Against Harvard, the Wildcats opened up a 20-point lead with just over seven minutes to play. They should have sailed to an easy win, but once again they fell prey to fatigue. That led to an ugly run of high school habits – errant passes, lazy closeouts, refusals to get into a proper defensive stance – that allowed the Crimson to make things interesting. "There are stretches when we don't play winning basketball," Calipari lamented afterward. "Guys just make whatever play they want to make."

With final exams looming, the Wildcats are headed for a stretch in which they will play once in 13 days. Then it's time for the annual two-week boot camp over the holidays known as "Camp Cal," during which the coach will whip the players' bodies and minds into shape and prepare for the bigger fights to come. It sucks sometimes, but that's because it's worth doing. Besides, Calipari knows it's all a part of the process. The players always come in like lambs. His job is to send them out like lions.

Hamidou Diallo has a happy New York homecoming in Kentucky win

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec. 9, 2017

It never ends well, right? A player goes back home to play in front of family and friends and bad things happen. He tries too hard. He plays uptight. Hoping to put on a show, he falls flat on his face. So goes John Calipari's rule of thumb. Happens (almost) every time.

Tell that to Hamidou Diallo. Tell that to Kentucky's 6-foot-5 redshirt freshman, born and raised in Queens. Tell him you can't go back to New York, New York, step foot on the hallowed floor of Madison Square Garden and put on a big show in the Big Apple.

"This is my first time playing in The Garden," Diallo said Saturday.

First time? He's got to be kidding, right. The way Diallo dropped a career-high 23 points on mid-major Monmouth in Kentucky's impressive 93-76 victory over the Hawks before 10,432 in the Citi Hoops Classic, you'd have thought the native New Yorker was a regular at these Garden parties.

"I never got to play in The Garden, so I mean coming from New York City it's every kid's dream to play in The Garden," he said. "I mean you grow up watching it, going to games. So me playing in there, having a good game, it's just a blessing."

The same arguably could be said of his teammates, who as a group might have produced their best overall performance to date. Surely that was the case in the first half when the Cats shot 60.7 percent, made five of nine three-pointers and outrebounded Monmouth 24-14 on the way to a 54-31 lead at the intermission.

OK, the Hawks outscored the Cats 45-39 in the second half and Calipari's club too often slipped into sloppiness, committing 19 turnovers. But, hey, as the coach likes to say, his kids are freshmen. It's early. Give Monmouth some credit.

"You saw how they played at the end," Calipari said of his friend King Rice's team, which outscored Kentucky 19-8 over the game's final four minutes.

And who could have blamed Calipari's young guns if they spent part of the second half Garden-gazing. Fox's Cris Carter was there. Famous Monmouth alum Karl-Anthony Towns Sr., father to a famous NBA center and ex-Wildcat of a very similar name, was there. New Yankees manager Aaron Boone was there. Former Lexingtonian and Yankees GM Brian Cashman, who attended Lexington Catholic High School, was also there to check out his old hometown team.

Gotham is Diallo's hometown, however. Don't you forget it. Before Thanksgiving, Diallo was asked to name his favorite Thanksgiving dish. New York City mac-and-cheese, he proclaimed proudly. How is that different than regular mac-and-cheese? It's New York City mac-and-cheese, he said.

He's a New Yorker, all right. A little brash, a little blunt, always straightforward. When a reporter earlier this season made the assumption Diallo bypassed the NBA Draft to show skeptics he could shoot from the perimeter, Diallo quickly corrected the record. He said he came back to show his entire game.

He showed it Saturday. First and foremost, the New Yorker is just so darn athletic. There was a play in the first half when Diallo drove down the right side, was cut off from the basket by a pair of defenders, lost control of the ball and yet somehow found a way to get it it off the glass and in the basket.

There was another play where a streaking Diallo skied for a thunderous tomahawk of a dunk that would have flat-out rocked the Garden, only to be fouled as the ball hit the back of the rim and bounced all the way to somewhere south of Jersey.

"It was just great coming out here, playing in front of a crowd that I haven't played in front of for a long time and just seeing my family again," said Diallo after going eight-for-13 from the floor, including 1-for-2 from three. "And we got a W, so that's a big part of it."

So, in the end, what did Calipari think of his you-can't-go-home-again theory after watching his newest favorite New Yorker return and conquer?

Said the coach, "He played good."

Kentucky basketball 'trending in the right way' after stellar performance against Monmouth

By: Fletcher Page | Courier Journal | Dec. 9, 2017

While ESPN distracted viewers on Saturday with interviews with Yankees' shot callers sitting courtside and video of Santa Claus impersonators outside in the snow, Kentucky was busy getting better in a blowout.

The No. 7 Wildcats defeated Monmouth 93-76 at Madison Square Garden despite committing 19 turnovers and leading scorer Kevin Knox missing 8 of his 9 shots and posting only four points.

After months of coach John Calipari reminding us how young this team is, Kentucky — get this — is getting better.

"You come to Kentucky to get better," Calipari said. "That's why you come to Kentucky. If you don't think you need to get better you don't come here."

On any given night, any handful of Wildcats emerge as top performers or as players trending in the right direction. Like on Saturday, when freshman guard Hamidou Diallo scored a career-high 23 points to continue a streak of stellar play.

"Less is more for him, but that is so hard," Calipari said. "Just do less and don't try to do as much."

That mentality helped the Queens native have a remarkable homecoming in his first game played in the place he grew up working to get to.

He said he's focused to "be what this team needs me to be and be a complete version of that." Diallo has averaged 20.3 points over the course of the past three games. He's attempted 35 2-pointers, only five 3-pointers and committed only five turnovers during that time.

"Hami being the more willing passer, doing less, looks way better," Calipari said.

The unselfish look stood out to Monmouth coach King Rice. Of the Wildcats' 31 made baskets, 20 were assisted.

"No kid tried to go one on one," Rice said. "When you play that way and share the ball like that, then you have kids that are really good players, that will get really open shots. That's the key to college basketball."

PJ Washington set his career-best with 20 points and recorded six rebounds and four blocks to bounce back after a bad showing last week against Harvard. Calipari said good performances were inevitable after the freshman forward dropped 15 pounds in 17 days. How'd he do it?

"Running. Running every day," Washington said. "Before practice, after practice. It's just a confidence booster."

Why he did it was revealed, interestingly, by Calipari. Some players, like freshman Nick Richards, show up early for every practice. PJ Washington wasn't among the first arrivals until a few weeks ago.

"In the case of PJ, it was a demand," Calipari said. "It wasn't an ask.

"I even said, maybe lose seven or eight more. Huh. You can get better. As (assistant) Kenny (Payne) was working him out pre-practice, basically, the kid wasn't happy now. He was whining, complaining. All of sudden it starts kicking in."

This has been an on-going challenge for Calipari, Rice revealed. During the U-19 U.S. training camp in June, Calipari instructed Rice, who helped lead drills and coached teams during scrimmages, to be tough on Washington.

"After the first scrimmage, Cal gave me some choice words to say to him," Rice said. "... The first day (Washington) didn't do that well. I was like, 'You're supposed to be a main guy. From what I'm hearing, Coach Calipari told me to tell you this and you better start doing it.' From that point on he was one of the better players at the workout."

Sophomore forward Wenyen Gabriel, with timely scoring and even more rebounding, is playing more and more like Derek Willis did last season, according to Calipari. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander continues to fill the stat sheet off the bench (the freshman had 15 points, nine assists and six rebounds on Saturday).

"I didn't know him as well, but he's really, really good," Rice said about Gilgeous-Alexander.

And on and on and on down the list it goes.

For Kentucky, enough players do enough each night to cover a bad showing for, say, Knox, who Calipari said learned, "a great lesson," in failing to score in double figures for the first time in his career.

"There's only one way if you're chasing greatness to convince yourself that you're good enough and that's through work, spending more time than anybody, being more committed than anybody," Calipari said. "And that's what I'm trying to do with each of these guys."

What Calipari is trying to do is get a team with five freshmen starters (and eight first-year players total) ready by March to compete for a national title. We know because Calipari constantly reminds us of growing pains and process that can't include skipping steps. No matter what, though, each player must take steps forward before the collective team can get better, too.

"Individual players have got to improve before your team can get better," Calipari noted. "... We're just getting going. This team is, there is some things we did in the first half that you would think we've cracked through. Well, we really haven't, but we're getting in that direction. We're trending in the right way."

Hamidou Diallo's improvement, marked by 3-game hot streak, is 'why you come here'

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Dec. 11, 2017

Hamidou Diallo came to Kentucky for days like Saturday, when he was back home in New York scoring 23 points at Madison

Square Garden helping a top-10 team cruise to victory over Monmouth.

"You come to Kentucky to get better," Wildcats coach John Calipari said afterward. "You come here to be challenged. You come here like, 'I want to be in a practice where everybody can play.' Hami did it for that reason, and he's getting better."

Diallo is riding a three-game hot streak in which he's averaged 20.3 points, 4.3 rebounds. 2.3 assists and 1.7 steals — shooting 63 percent from 2-point range and 14 of 19 at the free-throw line. That on the heels of a three-game stretch when he averaged just 7.7 points with 4 total assists, 9 total free-throw attempts and shot 35 percent from the field.

"He's trying to do what we're asking him to do," Calipari said. "Being a more willing passer, doing less, looks way better. Less is more for him, but that is so hard. Just do less, don't try to do as much. Do these things."

Those things being (in addition to more consistent defense) a judicious use of the 3-point shot — just five attempts the last three games — and liberal use of attack mode. Drive and finish, drive and pull up, drive and get fouled. Drive, drive, drive.

And when he does raise up for a jump shot: "I forced him to hold his follow-through," Calipari said. "There's nothing wrong with his shot. It's sometimes shot selection, but you've got to get into the habit of, 'Every shot I take, I hold my follow-through.' Then it becomes the same shot every day. Then you can become more consistent."

Diallo said doubts about his shooting ability, the No. 1 knock on his game when he was weighing whether to enter the 2017 NBA Draft, have been "fuel to my fire." He has spent many hours before and after practices refining his form.

He's shooting a respectable 47.2 percent from the field and 32 percent from 3-point range through nine college games, but the last three have him trending sharply upward.

"It's definitely been a main focus," Diallo said, "because that's what everybody critiques about my game. But I've just been working on my whole game … just trying to get better as a total basketball player and be what this team needs me to be."

Kicking and screaming, PJ Washington got to work and saw it pay off

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Dec. 12, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — John Calipari just threw it out there real casual-like during the TV broadcast of Kentucky basketball's blowout win over Monmouth on Saturday: freshman PJ Washington recently lost 15 pounds in 17 days, the coach said, which accounts a great deal for his huge afternoon at Madison Square Garden.

Wait, what? That seems like a lot of weight in a short amount of time, no? Not when you have the metabolism of a freakishly athletic teenager and an assistant coach, Kenny Payne, who specializes in fast-forwarded development of young post players.

"Individual players have got to improve before your team can get better," Calipari said after Washington went off for a career-high 20 points, 6 rebounds and 4 blocks. "So PJ lost that weight and all of a sudden he didn't even look like the same guy. I wasn't sure it would be this game, but he had practiced this way."

Washington, a 6-foot-7 former McDonald's All-American with a 7-3 wingspan and 43-inch vertical leap, had gotten off to a somewhat disappointing start at Kentucky: 5 points or fewer in four of his first eight games. He was shooting 46 percent at the free-throw line. Despite a lot of preseason hype about being "positionless," he'd made zero 3-pointers.

Then came Saturday, when he buried his first college three, sank 9 of 9 free throws and pretty well dominated on both ends of the floor. Was it really as simple as losing 15 pounds in 17 days? And how the heck did he do that?

"Running," Washington said with a grin. "Just running every day. Before practice, after practice, everything. [Losing the weight] is just a confidence booster. I feel like I'm more in shape and my shots are falling now and I'm just playing better."

Almost three weeks ago now, Calipari asked Payne to start putting Washington through grueling workouts in addition to practices. Calipari did not ask Washington if he wanted to attend. He ordered.

"The kid wasn't happy," the coach said. "He was whining and complaining — and all of a sudden it starts kicking in. There's only one way if you're chasing greatness to convince yourself that you're good enough, and that's through work, spending more time than anybody, being more committed than anybody.

"In the case of PJ, it was a demand. It wasn't an ask. But [Saturday's game] was good stuff. I was happy for him."

At long last, Washington showed off all of the skills that made coaches at Arizona, Kansas, North Carolina, UCLA and just about everywhere else salivate. When the Wildcats got into foul trouble on Saturday, they went to a zone defense and Washington played at the top of it, in the middle of it and on the wing.

He was everywhere. He looked … positionless.

"That's who he is," Calipari said. "But plus-15 pounds, he can't be that. And I even said, 'Myabe lose 7 or 8 more, maybe you'll get even better.' "

If that happens, or even if Washington can just maintain what he displayed in New York, the outlook for this Kentucky team changes dramatically.

9 Months to live, then 24 hours. But Kevin Massey is still steamrolling obstacles

By: Gregg Doyel | IndyStar | Dec. 14, 2017

Three weeks. That's how long Ruth Massey was giving her son as a freshman at the University of Kentucky. He'd get homesick, she figured. He'd get tired of the stress. That campus would be too large for Kevin and his wheelchair.

Before the wheelchair, before the numbness in his calf had turned into something sinister, Kevin Massey had played basketball and run cross country at Franklin Central. He had a lot of interests, a lot of friends, but college had just never seemed to make sense. Nobody from the Massey family had ever graduated college. His mom was the only who'd even gone, spending a year at Ivy Tech before joining the workforce. Kevin's dad, Dwain, didn't spend a day in college and look how he turned out. Learned a skill at a trade school. Became a plumber. Provides for his family, doesn't he?

Oh, Ruth and Dwain Massey were supportive of their son as a college student, don't get me wrong. They loved the idea of their boy going to Kentucky. They just didn't believe it would last.

"Honestly," Ruth Massey was telling me Wednesday night, "the truth is, when we brought him down to UK, I planned to stay for three weeks. I figured the first week (he'd) be on endorphins, and by the second or third week he'd be ready to go home."

On Friday, Kevin Massey will graduate from the University of Kentucky. He'll roll that wheelchair across the stage and he'll pick up his degree in Health Communications because he's a stubborn young man who tends to exceed expectations.

A doctor once gave him 24 hours to live.

That was seven years ago.

On the other end of the phone, Kevin Massey is getting emotional.

He says he's seen his dad, tough ol' Dwain Massey, cry one time in his whole life: The day the acceptance letter came from the

University of Kentucky. That was 2012, when Kevin was a senior at Franklin Central. By then he'd been in the wheelchair for more than a year, a journey that began with that sore calf in 2010. Within days there was tingling in his hands, then partial paralysis. Doctors found an inoperable tumor in his brain and gave him nine months to live. When the tumor started to bleed, doctors told his parents it was time for a priest. Because Kevin had 24 hours to live.

The journey has been something, all right. Like a snowball heading downhill, Kevin Massey has rolled and rolled, collecting friends and experiences along the way. Friends such as Kentucky coach John Calipari and former UK star Nerlens Noel, now a center with the Dallas Mavericks – and of course the most amazing dog in the world, a black lab named Aria. Experiences such as working as a student-manager for the UK basketball team for five seasons.

The college phase ends Friday when Kevin Massey, that unstoppable snowball, rolls across a stage in Lexington, Ky., and becomes the first Massey to graduate college.

And when he's telling me how he thinks his family will react, he stops talking for a moment. He has just said something so damn sweet, that he has seen his father cry just that one time, when his boy got the acceptance letter from UK. I'm wondering aloud if they're about to see his ol' man cry again on Friday. Kevin tends to talk slowly, the cancer that was supposed to kill him having to settle for disrupting his motor skills, but at the moment he goes silent.

Now he's making a sound I don't recognize.

Kevin, I say into the phone. Are you crying?

"I kind of hope that it's not my dad's cry No. 2," Kevin says, "because if he cries I'm going to cry, and then it will be one big cryfest."

There's that noise again. Kevin? You crying right now?

"No," Kevin says. "That's me laughing."

Kevin wants to be a motivational speaker, and let me go back and change the verb in this sentence: Kevin will be a motivational speaker. That's what he has decided, so that's how it's going to be. Doctors were wrong about him. Even his parents were wrong. I'm not making their mistake. He'll do it. And this is why:

"I want to give back to everybody who's had my back," he says.

That would be quite the feat. Everybody who's had his back? It's quite the list. His cousin Dylan Gable went with him to Kentucky, became his roommate, became his caretaker. Kevin needed help with the basics – shower, bathroom, you name it – and Dylan was there. When Dylan joined the U.S. Navy a while back, a journey that has taken the Beech Grove graduate to Japan, Kevin's sister Marissa became his roommate. In six months Marissa will become the second Massey to graduate from college, also from UK. Turns out Kevin isn't the only amazing kid in that family.

"How many 21-year-olds do you know," Ruth Massey is saying of her daughter, Marissa, "that would take care of their brother – personal hygiene, restroom issues, that kind of thing – and not blink an eye? Gets him out of bed, gives him showers. How many 21-year-olds do that? And also go to school? She graduates in May in Psychology: medical social work. She wants to help people, youth mainly, with sickness. She'll help families like we are."

Not sure there are families quite like they are, but every Massey I've spoken with wants to make clear how grateful they are, because they've not done it alone. Franklin Township Community Schools, where the kids attended and Ruth works in HR, held its first fundraiser in March 2010 at a southside Chick-fil-A. "You Got This Kev" is what they called it, raising funds for his medical bills.

Kevin wanted to go back to high school, and while he was never going to graduate, his parents thought he could use the social time. Franklin Central principal Kevin Koers cleared the way, and Kevin Massey was back. But he wasn't just hanging with friends. He was doing schoolwork, taking tests, getting passing grades. This guy: Always exceeding expectations.

Kevin had his reasons.

What you need to know there begins with Ed Schilling, now an assistant coach at IU, but in 2010 the head coach at Park Tudor. Through the local basketball community, Schilling heard about the JV player from Franklin Central. A tumor of some sort. Cancer. The kid was at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital, and the way Ed Schilling heard it, the kid was in dire straits – and a huge Kentucky fan.

Schilling had once spent two years on John Calipari's staff at Memphis. By March 2010, Calipari was in his first season at Kentucky. Schilling called Calipari and gave him the number to the hospital. Asked him to call Kevin.

Calipari drove there instead. The next day. Brought him the game ball from Kentucky's win two nights earlier against Alabama. And before he left that hospital room in Indianapolis, Calipari told that kid with nine months to live something outlandish.

"You get yourself healthy," Calipari whispered into his ear, "and you come with us."

Kevin survived those 24 hours after the brain bleed, obviously, then all nine months he was given to live. Seven years later, doctors have no idea why he's still alive. Prognosis? The Massey family doesn't ask anymore, because Kevin will just ignore it anyway.

There's a special kind of toughness here. Kevin's gallbladder had to come out in 2015. His appendix ruptured a year ago, and was removed. Hell, this kid was hit by a car a few years back, hit while using a crosswalk on campus, but he stayed upright. Didn't get hurt, actually, other than being shaken up emotionally. Not for himself – but for his dog.

See, for whatever reason, Kevin didn't have Aria with him on that trip to class. They're normally inseparable, Kevin and his service dog, have been since that day in 2014 when Kevin went to the Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) location on Crawfordsville Road to meet Aria, and she responded by walking up to his chair and putting her head in his lap. Aria already has saved his life once in Lexington, when he fell out of his chair on a sidewalk alongside a road and stayed there in the grass, just out of sight, until a passerby came to see what that damn dog was barking about. And found Kevin.

Aria is Kevin's best friend, but not far behind is UK assistant coach John Robic. Kevin's eligibility as a student-manager has expired, so now he goes to UK basketball practice just to watch and get fist-pounds from his super-tall friends and scowl playfully when Robic calls him a knucklehead. If he's feeling feisty, Kevin will say something in return, something just softly enough that Robic will ask him to repeat it. And then Kevin fires his zinger:

"Can't hear me, old man?"

Robic has become Kevin's third parent, the one Ruth and Dwain call when Kevin needs anything. Not long ago Kevin needed a dentist. Needed one fast. His parents called Robic, who pulled a string or two, and two hours later Kevin was on a dental chair. When Kevin fell out of his wheelchair at home a while back – something about a cracker that had fallen to the floor; don't ask – Robic was the one he called.

"Best friends for life," is how Ruth Massey describes the relationship between Robic and her son.

Ruth has been talking to me by cell phone from her car, and occasionally I can hear Dwain in the background. They're headed to Lexington for Kevin's graduation, and dozens of friends and family are coming too.

"It's been a long hard road, but seeing him cross the stage – we're all just going to be a bawling mess, I know it," Ruth says. "I

think Robic and Coach Cal will be right there crying with us.

"The support we've had all along this journey has just been completely amazing. That's what keeps driving Kevin. He doesn't want to let any of us down. He wants to make sure he shows other people: 'Look what I've been through. I can do it, you can do it too.' That's his personality, that's what he does, and he does it with a smile. I believe he's going to do big things and will inspire many people."

I believe he will exceed those expectations.

Diallo's Improvement Continues with Clutch Performance

By: Guy Ramsey | UKAthletics.com | Dec. 16, 2017

It's one of the most important questions John Calipari and Kentucky are facing early in the season: Who will step up to take big shots in the clutch?

Hamidou Diallo offered a potential answer Saturday afternoon.

Diallo buried two huge 3-pointers in the final minutes against Virginia Tech. Fearlessly taking two of the most important shots of the game, the freshman helped shoot the No. 8/5 Wildcats (9-1) to a hard-fought, high-scoring 93-86 win over the Hokies (9-2), their best so far this season.

The second of Diallo's two 3s was the true dagger, coming after Virginia Tech had gone on a 9-2 run to trim UK's lead to a scant two points. With a shade under a minute left, Diallo raised and fired.

"It was just a normal shot to me," Diallo said. "I just got the ball and I saw the rim, to be honest. It's just hard work paying off and I'm just going to keep getting in the gym trying to get better."

No one has ever questioned Diallo's athleticism, but his shooting stroke has been the subject to frequent critique. His response has been to put his head down and get in the gym, an approach he doesn't plan to change after scoring 20 points and hitting 4-of-7 3-pointers.

"I'm just going to keep working on my craft and keep trying to get better, each and every part of my game," Diallo said. "Hopefully prove the doubters wrong."

Diallo has gone a long way in proving those doubters wrong in his last four outings. He has now scored at least 19 points in every game dating back to UK's win over UIC, shooting 30 of 56 (53.6 percent) and 5 of 12 from 3 along the way.

"It's just my teammates and my coaches," Diallo said. "Pretty much, they all believe in me and I'm just making them believe. Every day I come into practice and I'm just working hard and just trying to make my teammates and coaches believe in me. That's what we have been doing and that's what we're all trying to do."

Wisely, Diallo is focusing much more of his energy on his teammates and coaches than anyone else. He's heard Coach Cal talking this week about his players not getting their due respect and he appreciates the thought. He's just not going to enter that conversation.

"I'm just here to play basketball and focus on what I need to do for this team and what we need to do to win," Diallo said. "That's Coach Cal's position and he's going to fight for us and that's why I chose to come here. I'm just here to play basketball and do what he tells me to do."

Early in the season, Coach Cal was on Diallo about his shot selection, even going so far as to threaten to sub him out for taking an out-of-rhythm 3-pointer. After Diallo registered career highs in both attempts and makes from deep, there was no such talk.

"He was never on me about shooting 3s," Diallo said. "It was just the type of 3s I was taking and improving the quality of my shots. That's what I have been working on and I'm just going to keep trying to improve on that and keep practicing the way I have been practicing and just keep being motivated."

As a team, according to Diallo, the Wildcats are doing the same. Facing a difficult stretch of games – but one that allows for a week of practice and improvement between each matchup – he sees a team that's finding its feet.

"I would just say that we knew it would take a little while for us to start jelling and bonding with each other," Diallo said. "We have a bunch of players that always were the number one option on their team. So for all of us to be on one team now, we gotta buy in and it's going to take time. We're just going to keep getting better at it, keep practicing the way we've been practicing and just keep trying to get better."

Now, what has been a culprit for its steeper learning curve – a wealth of options – is becoming its greatest strength.

"I just feel like we have a bunch of players that can get going," Diallo said. "We have a bunch of players, we have a bunch of options and we're really good defensively. We did good today in our press and we're just going to keep getting better at that. We haven't even really worked on it a lot. We just did really good at it. It's just going to be fun to see how these next couple months go."

Quade 'Terminator' Green torches Virginia Tech ... while wearing sunglasses

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Dec. 16, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Just a day earlier, John Calipari had been explaining how vital freshman point guard Quade Green is to Kentucky's offense. How his value is greater than most people understand. How if Green's gouged right eye kept him from playing Saturday against Virginia Tech, it would spell trouble.

Then the game started, but Green did not, and the Hokies unleashed their spectacular offense. Calipari could only stomach 92 seconds and 5 quick points by the visitors before he hollered down his bench for the 6-foot kid wearing sunglasses.

No, they hadn't peeled the roof back on Rupp Arena for the daytime tip. But a dark-spectacled Green nearly blew the lid off it when he checked in and went right to work carving up Virginia Tech's defense.

He hit 6 of 12 shots, made a pair of 3-pointers, scored 17 points, dished 5 assists and coughed up a single turnover. Eighth-ranked Kentucky (9-1) needed nearly every bit of that in a wild, 93-86 shootout against the top-scoring and best-shooting team in college basketball.

The Hokies hit 58.2 percent from the field Saturday — best ever in that building during Calipari's eight-plus seasons — and hit 10 3-pointers and lost, but just barely, because Green delivered the greatest game by a Wildcats player wearing shades. Unofficially.

"He was really good," Calipari said. "I kind of felt bad for him, so I was going to wear sunglasses [Saturday], too. I told the team I was going to. I thought, 'If he has to do it, I'll do it with him. We'll both have sunglasses.' But it would have been a national story: Who does he think he is? He thinks he's at the beach."

Green, who was poked in the eye a week earlier against Monmouth and had it swell completely shut, said the combination shades/goggles were to block out bright lights that are bothering him and to protect against another injury. Now here's the fun part: How long does he plan to wear them?

"All season," Green said. "Yep, I need them because I can't get poked in my eye again. I'm scared about that, [and] the light messes it up. [The eye] is open now, but the light just agitates it."

Officials inspected Green's glasses before tip-off to "make sure they were medical," Green said, and not just him trying to look cool. But, for the record, teammates

figure he's the Wildcats player most likely to wear shades indoors simply to be stylish.

"Definitely the coolest guy," said fellow guard Hamidou Diallo, who kept up his hot streak with 20 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals and the critical 3-pointer with 50 seconds to go in a 2-point game. "He needs to keep those on."

The reason Calipari was raving about Green's importance on Friday was made plain on Saturday: He's such a reliable shot maker that defenses have to respect him, react to him, and it opens up teammates for quality shots. Guys such as Diallo, who has scored 19-plus in four consecutive games, and Kevin Knox, who had 21 points, 5 boards and 4 assists.

"He's playing the way I want him to play, which is: Score baskets, kid. Score baskets. That's what you do," Calipari said. "By doing that, he's [also] getting 5 assists, 1 turn. So instead of being like, 'Watch me with the ball,' and bouncing it 12 times, he's either trying to score it or if you stop him from scoring it, he'll give it to somebody."

On Saturday, that added up to Kentucky's best all-around offensive performance of the season and its best win so far. The Cats had as many made 3-pointers (11 in 22 attempts) as turnovers.

So whether you want to call Green "Terminator" or "Cyclops," among the nicknames he heard this week — when he did not practice once, by the way — just don't sleep on how important he is to these young Cats. And don't mess with those shades.

"I say we all get glasses. Cal, all the coaches," Knox said. "He can keep them if he wants to. If he can knock down shots like he did, he can have them on for the rest of the year."

A coach said no one will do better at UK than John Calipari. He's probably right.

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec. 17, 2017

After losing 93-86 at Kentucky on Saturday, Virginia Tech Coach Buzz Williams piled on the praise.

"I love Coach," Williams said. "Early-entry Hall of Famer. That's only happened six times in the history of the game. The guy's still coaching and he's inducted into the Hall of Fame. I have the utmost respect for him."

He was talking about Kentucky Coach John Calipari.

"It's the best job in all of basketball at any level," continued Williams, "and I don't think there will ever be another head coach do a better job at the best job than Cal."

It slipped under the radar recently that Calipari won his 700th game on the court — excluding those NCAA "vacate" rulings — when UK defeated UIC on Nov. 26, making him just the 39th coach in college basketball to do so.

Calipari's record at Kentucky: 258-54. His home record: 142-6. His record on the road: 88-37. His record at neutral sites: 67-15. His record against Associated Press ranked teams: 50-23.

In the past eight years, Calipari has coached Kentucky to six Elite Eights, four Final Fours, two national championship games and an NCAA title in 2012.

The thing is, while winning is certainly the most important aspect, there is more to being the University of Kentucky basketball coach than wins and losses. To me, that's what Williams was talking about. And Buzz might have hit it on the button.

Over the greatest tradition in the history of college basketball, as the public address announcer proclaims in Rupp Arena, the most successful basketball coaches at Kentucky have been the ones who either fit or were slightly ahead of their times.

Take Adolph Rupp, the man who got it started. At a time when Henry Iba was playing a slowdown game, Rupp introduced the notion of racehorse basketball. His best teams were magical passers — see Fabulous Five and Rupp's Runts — who ran the fast break to perfection. It's how he won 876 games and four national titles.

Take Rupp's successor, Joe B. Hall. At at time when the program desperately needed to be integrated, Hall did so without fanfare or friction. He introduced more modern training techniques. He recruited nationally. He also went 297-100, reached three Final Fours and won the national title in 1978.

Take Rick Pitino. Whatever you think of him now, Pitino rescued the program from the dark days of NCAA probation. With his full-court press and three-point shooting, Pitino was a revolutionary who made Kentucky basketball fun again. And it won again, going 219-50 with three Final Fours and a national title in 1996.

Take Tubby Smith. He was not quite as successful as his predecessors, going 263-83 with just one Final Four appearance (the 1998 national title). But Smith was not only UK's first black head basketball coach, he was as personally well-liked as any coach who has ever worn a whistle at the school. A decade after his departure, that still remains the case.

Now take Calipari. In this time of the 24/7 sports cycle, fan bases can tire of its head coach quickly, even a successful one. And no doubt there are a few in Big Blue Nation who grumble a little more than they did before about Calipari's constant salesmanship, his one-and-done emphasis and how all those NBA Draft picks have produced just one title.

Yet, no UK coach has embraced the job the way Calipari has embraced every aspect of the job. Among coaches, he's a social media pioneer. He's the public face of the program. (He almost lives downtown, for heaven's sakes.) He's revered its history and former players.

He was so far ahead of the recruiting curve, competitors have adopted his approach. And despite practically a new roster every season, he keeps winning, including this year at 9-1.

"I love their team," Williams said Saturday.

I don't know when Calipari's time at Kentucky will end, but I do know I wouldn't want to follow him.

John Calipari still experimenting with Wildcats as SEC play nears

By: Andy Katz | NCAA.com | Dec. 21, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Looking for a comparison with this Kentucky team? Try 2013-14 when Kentucky lost 10 games prior to the NCAA tournament, entered with a No. 8 seed and yet still reached the national title game before losing to UConn.

That would mean the Wildcats would still have to lose nine more times between now and Selection Sunday, which seems like quite a bit considering they have struggling UCLA in New Orleans Saturday and host Louisville on Dec. 29. They still play at West Virginia in the Big 12-SEC Challenge in January and must go through an improving SEC, but nine more? Doubt it.

So, forget the record here. That won't be duplicated. This Kentucky team will/should still have a gaudy record. But coach John Calipari is dealing with something similar this season to that 2013-14 team: a lot of inexperience, lacking a proven returning star, and unknowns.

All of it can be solved — because the potential is there for the Wildcats to be in the mix for a national title, despite any and all obstacles.

This is, after all, Kentucky.

"I don't know where we're at, but I know we're getting better," said the Hall of Fame coach during a wide-ranging interview with NCAA.com at Rupp Arena. "Some of the anxiety of playing college basketball has worn off. But we're starting five freshmen and eight months ago these guys were play-

ing high school basketball and now they've been thrown into this environment.''

Calipari is leaning on seven freshman and three sophomores among his top healthy 11.

The Wildcats' only loss was to Kansas in the Champions Classic in Chicago last month. The most notable win came last weekend at home against unranked Virginia Tech. Wins over Vermont, East Tennessee State, Utah Valley, Harvard and even Fort Wayne (see Indiana) aren't going to move the meter but they all may compete for their respective conference titles.

Still, this was hardly a gauntlet like others have faced. And that's fine. Kentucky is being built for March, not for December.

Calipari rattled off how each player has improved since the beginning of the season, most notably PJ Washington and Kevin Knox, who he said is no longer settling for jumpers but is instead attacking.

"How do you take what we did because it wasn't good enough,'' said Calipari. "I told them that they were so far behind and now you're adequate.''

He said this team has to get better individually. He's hoping/needs this team to be a machine offensively. Calipari wondered will they be disruptive with their size? Will they become a shot-blocking, rebounding, flying around team?

"I don't know where we will be but I do know we've gotten better,'' said Calipari.

The easy thing to do is say that Knox, Hamidou Diallo, Quade Green, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Nick Richards, Wenyen Gabriel, Sacha Killeya-Jones or Tai Wynyard aren't the same as John Wall, DeMarcus Cousins, Karl Anthony-Towns or Anthony Davis.

"Let me let everyone in on a secret — no one is,'' Calipari said. "There were only five or six guys I coached here like that. The rest of them are like the guys I'm coaching now. But with that said and done, I would be surprised if three or four of them aren't in the lottery.''

Kentucky's numbers are still solid, scoring over 80 a game, giving up 69. The Wildcats are shooting over 50 percent overall, but 37.1 percent on 3s while limiting teams to 31.5 percent from long range.

"This team will be fine,'' Calipari said. "I can't promise you if they will stay this course. We're either winning now or we're learning. We're not losing.''

Calipari said there is no update on the possible return of Jarred Vanderbilt from a foot injury that has sidelined him the whole season. Calipari said he would give the Wildcats another high-level scorer if he gets back on the court. But that's a big if.

"He will not be playing just so we can win a couple more basketball games,'' Calipari said. "I will not put him out there for that. If he plays this year it will be because he can help himself and our team. If he's not able to go and he knows he's not able to compete, then he shouldn't play. He's going through the process now of working individually and we will eventually get him into team practices. If he can stay up with this then it would be try a couple of games. But I'm not pressuring him. If he can't come back and comes back next year, that's good for us.''

Calipari said he's still experimenting with this group, and has played more zone defense because of the length and athleticism. But don't expect him to play much more than a max of about 14 percent since he said zone won't help these players in the future.

Calipari said the improved SEC could lead to eight teams landing NCAA bids and he expects each league game to be tough to win. As for next week's game against Louisville, sans Rick Pitino, the game will still have massive appeal and intensity.

"It's still Louisville-Kentucky,'' he said. "When I'm not here, and Louisville plays Kentucky, it's still going to be a big game within our state, maybe not the country, but within here. I've tried not to make it a big game, but as much as I want to make it just about the game, it's still Louisville.''

And this is still Kentucky where expectations are always for a national title, no matter the path to competing for one.

"We were struggling to land the plane (in 2014),'' said Calipari. "We almost ran out of runway. We got it down in March and when we got it down we played in the final game of the season. Four weeks before that people didn't think we could make the Sweet 16. This may be one of those years. This is going to be a year where we take some losses. We've had one already. Now it's about winning and learning. In late February and March it's about winning and losing. I'm still experimenting and trying to figure out what will work with this team.''

In the Big Easy, Kentucky finds one part of its game needs some hard work

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec. 23, 2017

NEW ORLEANS -- If you go back and read the tea leaves, seventh-ranked Kentucky's 83-75 loss to unranked UCLA here Saturday in the CBS Sports Classic in the Big Easy should not have come as that big of a surprise.

For all the accolades thrown Kentucky's way last Saturday for its win over a good Virginia Tech team, the postgame analysis airbrushed out a rather ominous wart: The Hokies shot 58.2 percent, the second-highest field goal percentage against Kentucky in the John Calipari Era.

Kentucky survived that day. Some hot-three point shooting of its own helped. So did a raucous home crowd in Rupp Arena. Saturday, however, the circumstances were different, starting with a half-full Smoothie King Center. It was, after all, two days before Christmas. And when it's football season, New Orleans could care less about college basketball. Thus a bad date and a bad venue make for a bad crowd.

And, despite what we might have heard, UCLA is not a bad team. Before Saturday, the Bruins were, well, unsettled. The embarrassing incident in China in which three UCLA freshmen were accused of shoplifting — and one of the three being named LiAngelo Ball, who has since moved on to Lithuania — hung over the program until Friday when the school announced that Cody Riley and Jalen Hill will remain suspended for the rest of the season.

What head coach Steve Alford lost in bodies he might have gained in finality. Knowing finally where they stood, the Bruins looked like a much better team than the one that blew a 15-point lead in an overtime loss at Michigan and the one that lost at home by 14 to Cincinnati.

"I think we put it all together today," Alford said.

"Give them credit," said UK sophomore Wenyen Gabriel, who did what he could, scoring 16 points and grabbing six rebounds. "They hit some big shots."

There's the rub, however. If the Bruins did not shoot the ball quite as well (47.5 percent) as the Hokies, they shot it well enough, nailing a dozen three-pointers.

Kentucky switched back and forth from man-to-man to zone defense, using the full-court press, backing off the full-court press, just to keep the Cats in the game.

"I don't like coaching that way," Calipari said afterward.

Not that everything was terrific on the offensive end, either. After shooting 55 percent over its last five games, the Cats slumped to 42.6. Quade Green was a near no-show, going 1-for-7 from the field. PJ Washington continues to disappear at times. After making four triples last week, Hamidou Diallo missed four of his five three-point attempts Saturday.

It's the defense that gives reason for concern, because defense is what Calipari's best teams do best. It bears repeating that for all the NBA talent he recruits, Calipari's stock-and-trade has been good, grind-it-out

defensive teams.

Calipari blamed Saturday on a "different type of pick-and-roll defense" he tried that failed. Live and learn. Guarding the perimeter, however, Kentucky's above-average length should be bothering opponents' marksmen. Yet the Bruins were the fourth consecutive foe to make at least 10 three-pointers on the Cats.

"I don't know how many they made," said Calipari of the Bruins, "but they made every one down the stretch they needed to make."

Calipari also placed part of the blame on his team's youth, of course. He's starting five freshmen, as you know. That's all true. But it's also true the Cats are going to be led by freshmen all season long. Then some will leave, and some will stay, but either way the goal is to first win the SEC and second, and more importantly, go deep in the NCAA Tournament.

Can basketball be reduced to a numerical formula? Even Ken Pomeroy has his doubts.

You judge a team's readiness toward achieving those goals not by its performances against the cupcakes, but how it does against Power Five foes such as Kansas, Virginia Tech and UCLA. Against that group, UK is 1-2.

Saturday's warts-and-all analysis: Kentucky's offense should return, but the defense needs work.

Driven hard by his dad, Kevin Knox Jr. is making it look easy at Kentucky

By: Brian Hamilton | The Athletic | Dec. 23, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Morning drop-off at Tutor Time went like most preschool drop-offs: Parents drove around the bend of tree-lined Canoga Park Drive on the south end of Brandon, Fla., pulled into the parking lot and sent their tykes inside. If this was the extent of the daily ritual, 5-year-old Kevin Knox Jr. would have been happy. But the problem for Kevin Knox Jr. was that his father is Kevin Knox Sr. And his father, a former college football star drawing from a bottomless well of energy, liked to play hip-hop music very, very loudly on the ride in, to get his child excited for the day. This caused everyone else at drop-off to stare at the Knoxes, which made Kevin Jr. want to hide behind one of those trees.

One day, tired of slumping out of sight as his father jammed away behind the wheel, Kevin Jr. made a request. He asked that his father not play the music so loud. He didn't like everyone looking at him. It was a reasonable request. So after some consideration, Kevin Sr. decided to change their routine. Each morning, as he came around that corner toward Tutor Time, he turned the radio up two more notches while also rolling down the windows and ignoring his son yelling "What are you doing, Daddy?!?" from the back seat.

More than a dozen years later, Kevin Knox Jr. has a little more clarity on that as a 6-foot-9 college freshman occupying a seat in a Joe Craft Center office. He is the leading scorer for the Kentucky basketball team, which makes him exactly the kind of person everyone looks at all the time. It is not a simple deal. But it is also nothing new. A mortified 5-year-old wouldn't realize it, but a crucible of obnoxiously loud music and YMCA tournaments and punitive laps for missed shots would make the difficult job of being one of the Wildcats' spotlighted performers feel, well, easy. "He's been to the top," Kevin Knox Jr. says of his father. "He's won a national championship, he's learned from Hall of Famers, he's been coached by Hall of Famers. He's pretty much done everything. He knows what it takes to get there."

There are plenty of Dad stories in college basketball, plenty of examples of prominent players nudged along by driven fathers, many of whom have outsized personalities. (It is, let's just say, a familiar dynamic lately.) But not many have an alignment like the Knoxes. Not many fathers have played for one of the biggest-name coaches in the sport, at one of the biggest-name programs in the sport … and sent their sons to play for one of the biggest-name coaches in the sport, at one of the biggest-name programs in the sport. A lot of parents can prepare their children for the rigors of college athletics, no doubt. Few can prepare them the way Kevin Sr. can, for his son is effectively living a basketball version of the football life his dad experienced long ago.

From 1990 to 1993, Kevin Knox Sr. was a 6-foot-3 wide receiver for the Florida State Seminoles, coached by Bobby Bowden, winner of 315 games and two national championships across 34 seasons in Tallahassee. The program won 44 games and lost just six during Kevin Sr.'s time there, bringing home Bowden's first national title during his senior year, when Kevin was arguably the preferred target of Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Charlie Ward, leading Florida State in receiving yards (575) and touchdown grabs (seven) and ranking second in catches (42). He lived through and contributed to what most likely was the peak period of one of the most striking tenures in college football history. It shaped his perspective not on how enjoyable the view was from the top, but what's required to get there and stay there: Every day, Kevin Sr. recalls, he walked under a banner that read ADVERSITY, looming over the entrance to the practice field. On the other side — for the view on the way off the field, once the day's work was done — the banner read PERSEVERANCE.

Standard overwrought motivational stuff, for sure. But Kevin Knox Sr. considered this the gospel of a coach and grandfatherly figure, so he latched on to it and never let go. The guy who studied the outrageous work ethics of Walter Payton and Jerry Rice before he matriculated through the pressure-cooker of Florida State would apply all of this to the next generation. "For my kids," he says, "I was going to push them so hard that, wherever they went, it was going to be easy."

The first one was his namesake, Kevin Jr., signed up for a flag football league by the time he was 4, alike his father enough to show promise in both football and basketball but, as evidenced by some preschool drop-off protests, wired almost entirely differently. Personality, however, didn't really play into this calculation. Going to his mother, Michelle, and whining about Dad's prodding didn't stem the tide. "He's just always yelling, always screaming, just so much energy," Kevin Jr. says now, "and you're just like, Why is he doing all this for no reason?" There were reasons, of course. Father and Son inexorably made their way to Heather Lakes Park, which conveniently provided a sizable grass expanse for football work and a traditional asphalt court with double-iron rims for basketball drills. Not that the two altogether diverged. Kevin Jr. pushed the sled during football and basketball seasons. He did up-downs on concrete and bear crawls year-round. Drop a pass, and it was a lap. Run a route incorrectly, and his father might drill the ball at his feet to prove a point. Miss three straight shots on those unforgiving iron rims, and it was a trip to a tree about 75 yards away and back. Take off, his father would say. No questions asked.

In the early stages of Kevin Jr.'s basketball life, he played at a YMCA. His father felt the competition lacked, well, stakes. So he connected with all the YMCAs in the Tampa area and started a de facto city championship. An eight-team bracket. And 10-year-old Kevin Jr. was the MVP of the inaugural title game. "I wanted him to understand that when you get to the big time, it didn't matter," Kevin Sr. says. "You've been here before. You've felt this quote-unquote pressure before. As he plays, people can see, he's not fazed. [Kentucky coach John Cali-

pari] can't yell enough — I've yelled more than him. Cal can't make him do more bear crawls than I did. A coach can't tell him, shoot this many times — he's already shot more times than anyone can possibly make him shoot. He's accustomed to it. He's used to being on that type of stage."

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He had his choice of stages. Kevin Jr. was the starting quarterback at Tampa Catholic High School as a freshman, though the first pass he ever threw was perhaps instructive about the future. He dropped back and prepared to heave the ball downfield on an all-verticals call, while a massive defensive lineman committed to South Florida blew by the Tampa Catholic center. Kevin Jr. tried to run. "But nah," he says. "Six-seven, 280. You're not getting nowhere." Kevin Jr. hit the turf. He saw nothing but black. Three seconds later, the lights flickered back on. "My first ever throw," he says, "I got knocked out."

Conveniently, he was experiencing a bit of a basketball awakening at the time. He switched AAU teams following eighth-grade nationals in Florida and a pep talk from former NBA sharpshooter Tim Legler, who pulled Kevin Jr. aside and assured him he had a bright future after seeing him play against his son's squad. Some increased exposure, combined with a growth spurt and injury concerns, shoved football to the side for good. Meanwhile, as he ascended to top-20 recruit status, a player who scored 2,670 points in high school while averaging 28.5 points and 11.3 rebounds as a senior, Kevin Jr. found increased comfort within his own skin. If he heard his father yelling from the stands at games, it was no longer a flashpoint of embarrassment; Kevin Jr. simply would catch his dad's eye and push his hands down, the mutually understood sign for I got this. His father encouraged him to talk a little more trash, to yell and scream and find fuel in his emotions. Kevin Jr. maintained his poker face.

"Don't try and make him Terrell Owens," Michelle Knox would tell her husband. "Don't try to make him Deion Sanders. Don't try to change him. He is who he is."

Essentially, Kevin Jr. had learned that he could fuse ambition and stoicism, that he could create a comfort zone while never getting too comfortable. This flatline approach would be a perfect cover for his arrival at Kentucky. Most everyone figured Florida State and Duke were the front-runners for his services. "People knew we wanted him," Kentucky assistant Kenny Payne says, "but they didn't know to what extent." And, in fact, in the early rounds of Knox household deliberations — in which the schools were rated 1 to 10 in areas such as offense, dorm life, the roster fit and academics — Kentucky trailed the other contenders. But all Payne asked was that the Knoxes do their homework. As they did, the Wildcats grew in their esteem. And Payne knew Kevin Jr. was all but on his way when he delivered a request list.

Challenge me. Force me out of my shell. Force me to be a go-to guy. Force me to play at a level to where I can be an NBA all-star. Kevin Jr.'s entire life program revolved around making a place such as Kentucky seem easy to handle. In the end, he wanted to ensure it wasn't. "His maturation is going to be taking a kid who is really reserved and putting him in a environment where we force him out of his comfort zone," Payne says. "We force him out of being the kid that's trying to blend into the kid that's trying to be the alpha dog without taking his personality away from him. He's a quiet, reserved kid by nature. But we need him to be the alpha with his actions."

One of the youngest rosters John Calipari has ever had would need — and maybe still needs — that buck-stops-here scorer for late-game buckets. The staff envisioned Knox Jr. filling that role and immediately set that bar. Payne rolled video of Kevin Durant and told Knox Jr., "The greatest thing in the world has happened for you. You can watch him." They broke down 25 clips of Durant's play and focused on his actions before the ball hit his hands, on how he moved his feet and scanned the defense and prepared to attack before receiving a pass. When the ball was in the left post, and Durant was situated on the right wing, they watched him set himself as the ball swung around the horn and, once in possession of the ball, how he made a decisive, instinctive move to the rim. They also noted the multiplicity in Durant's arsenal, the floaters and runners and post-up footwork on top of the deadeye shooting.

That was the model for Knox Jr. from the moment he arrived in Lexington. "In high school, I used to do whatever I wanted," he says. "I could shoot the ball whenever I want. I could pretty much run any play I wanted. Here, it's different. You've gotta be able to play through what Cal wants, you've gotta be aggressive at all times. In high school sometimes, I wasn't as aggressive as I am here. Here I learned how to be able to attack more, when to attack."

The results are to be expected for a work in progress: Often, Knox Jr. has made it look easy enough. He has posted seven games of 15 or more points in his first 11 outings for the Wildcats, who appear to have enough offensive balance that Knox Jr. doesn't have to be the only option — just one of the first ones. Among rotation regulars, his usage rate of 22.7 percent ranks second to Hamidou Diallo (26.9). And with a generally unimpassioned demeanor, Knox Jr. is equipped to avoid wild swings and mercurial play that run counter to being a reliable lodestar scorer. "He never shows emotion," says friend and fellow Wildcats freshman Jemarl Baker. "You can't get to him. He's just a silent killer." That may overstate things slightly. Knox Jr.'s efficiency with the ball in his hands is good — if not yet great. He averages .921 points per possession, according to Synergy Sports data, good for the 57th percentile nationally. He's very effective dealing in screen-and-rolls (1.077 PPP), he's solid in transition (1.132 PPP) and he's prolific in the post (1.556 PPP), though plays from the block account for just 4.5 percent of his possessions. In half-court spot-up scenarios, Knox Jr. is at .789 PPP, good for the 31st percentile nationally, all of which is to say he can deliver and has delivered but has room to do so at a more prodigious rate.

And a player who wanted to be challenged has gotten his wish there, too.

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Knox Jr. didn't wait long for his first opportunity to save the day. With 33.6 seconds left and Kentucky trailing Kansas by two in the Champions Classic on Nov. 14, Calipari didn't draw up a play as much as conjure the vague idea of one. "I just said we're throwing it to Kevin, get a shot," Calipari deadpanned later that night. Knox Jr. took a handoff from P.J. Washington as he circled to the top of the key, flipped the ball back to Shai Gilgeous-Alexander at the point, then flared out to the wing, just beyond the 3-point arc. Isolated on the Jayhawks' Lagerald Vick, he attacked, only to find himself stymied nearly behind the backboard after two dribbles. He didn't come close to making a tough-angle shot. The Wildcats lost by four.

A 20-point, seven-rebound effort before a national audience was no failure, but preparation for the moment didn't guarantee execution in the moment. So Knox Jr. reflexively began to prepare for the next moment. He examined the film, assessing his angle on the drive (it wasn't the best), watching how the help-side defense closed out, mulling a pull-up jumper over a defender who was giving up four inches, thinking about whether he'd ask Calipari to set him up in a specific spot the next time. Because he fully expected there would be a next time. "You just gotta have the mentality that, I'm going to make this shot," Knox Jr. says. "You should have no doubt that you

want the ball in your hands, at the time."

Or as Payne puts it: "It was a plus for him. Obviously, we didn't win the game. But he knows what we're expecting."

As his father watched that night, he knew how the next conversation with his son would go. Good job giving your coach the confidence to put you in that situation, Kevin Sr. said. Sure, Kevin Jr. had gotten too deep with his approach. Sure, he had done the same thing two years earlier in a Nike EYBL game, driving instead of opting for a pull-up jumper — and back then, Father and Son reviewed video of buzzer-beaters from Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant and Tracy McGrady, noting they almost always avoided forays into traffic in favor of the jump shot. But that was fixable. No, Kevin Jr. didn't finish the job against Kansas. The success came in Calipari's asking him to do it in the first place.

It is all part of the evolution. Kevin Knox Jr. is not alone. He has the abundant resources of Kentucky basketball at his fingertips, he has his family a call or a text away, and he has Calipari as the ringmaster of it all. But Knox Jr. is now the one directing things. He now understands how easy it all can be. "You've gotta do it yourself," he says. "[Calipari] is here just to guide you and lead you through it. But you've gotta have the mentality, you gotta have the work ethic to do it all on your own."

For the Knox family, the point of finding a place like Kentucky was to identify the best way to let go. When Kevin Jr. shot a ghastly 1 for 9 and tallied just four points against Monmouth on Dec. 9, Kevin Sr. remarked to his wife that their son had never shot worse in his basketball life. Michelle asked her husband what he planned to say to their son. Kevin Sr. thought back to those days he entered the Florida State practice fields and passed under that banner, the one wth ADVERSITY on one side and PERSEVERANCE on the other. Kevin Sr. told his son, hey, you walked through the gate. Now you're walking back out.

This was all he could do. There were no up-downs or punitive laps to dispense. And seven days later, Kevin Jr. dropped 21 points on Virginia Tech, his second-highest single-game total of the season. "Basically it's like taking a flower and pouring water on it and watching it grow," Payne says. "Each and every day he's getting better. He's understanding. The mistakes he made walking in the door — he's adjusting and growing and learning."

Kentucky envisions Knox Jr. as a double-digit rebounder and a defender who can impose his will regularly by season's end, all of which would complement what it hopes would be more metronomic scoring outputs. It's a lot to ask. It will require a good deal of work. But then Knox Jr. arguably has already been through the hard part.

About a month ago, he walked into the Craft Center practice gym to find his father and his 9-year-old sister, Ashley, working through the gauntlet. Two-ball dribbles. Shots taken as Kevin Sr. coaxed her to get more air under the ball. Laps run around the gym after a missed layup. "She's going through what we've gone through," Kevin Jr. says with a smile. "She's getting it all in now." He's heard it all along, the complaints and whining from his three younger siblings about why their dad is making them work so hard, why he pushes them to do the things they don't want to do.

Kevin Jr. reminds them there was a time they watched him endure all this. He tells them to fight through. He tells them their dad is helping them this way for a reason. He tells them it's going to get easier.

Gilgeous-Alexander leads UK's rout of Cards -- and he's thankful for the opportunity

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec. 29, 2017

Already well on his way to his best basketball game as a Kentucky Wildcat, freshman Shai Gilgeous-Alexander switched into a dream matchup Friday afternoon.

With Gilgeous-Alexander dribbling near the halfcourt line, teammate Wenyen Gabriel ran up to set a screen on Louisville's Quentin Snider, leaving 7-footer Anas Mahmoud to switch off on UK's shifty point guard.

Gilgeous-Alexander took immediate advantage of the mismatch.

He drove into the lane with his right hand, went behind his back to the left — leaving Mahmoud completely off guard — and then scored on a sweet lefty layup to give the Cats a 30-point lead over their archrival with about 8:45 left to go in the beatdown.

The Rupp Arena crowd went nuts, and the players on the nearby UK bench jumped out of their seats in celebration as Gilgeous-Alexander turned and gleefully shouted in their direction.

Then, he slipped and fell to the court.

It was pretty much his only miscue of the day, and John Calipari will gladly forgive the exuberance. The UK coach said after the Cats' 90-61 victory that he wished all of his players played with such joy.

"What you see on his face is a smile. That kid smiles," Calipari said. "I don't know if it's a Canadian thing. I don't know what it is. But every Canadian that I've coached has fun and smiles and doesn't feel the weight of the world on them. I've got some guys still feeling the weight of the world. You can see it. They miss a shot, they shrug their shoulders … but Shai, he just plays."

He played very well — and put smiles on many faces — Friday.

The line next to Gilgeous-Alexander's name on the final box score read: 24 points, five rebounds, four assists and three steals. He scored 17 of those points in the second half, helping UK pull away to its largest winning margin in this rivalry in 18 years.

After the game, Gilgeous-Alexander smiled at a question about why he smiles so much.

"I think it's just a mindset," he said. "You have to know you're blessed, and a lot of kids don't have the opportunities to do what you can do and be in the situation that you're in. So you just have to think of it in that way."

Before the game, during UK's pregame warmups, all of the attention was on his hair.

Like many college freshmen on Christmas break, Gilgeous-Alexander got a fresh cut before heading back to campus. He first said that he "just wanted to get rid of it," calling the old 'do "too much," before later acknowledging that his mother thought it was getting to be too much, too.

"She thought I was looking homeless," he said.

Whether it was the hair or not, Gilgeous-Alexander said he felt like he was due for a big game leading up to this one.

His previous career high as a Wildcat was 15 points — against Monmouth three weeks ago — and he was often an afterthought in this UK freshman class that also included such players as a Kevin Knox, Hamidou Diallo, Jarred Vanderbilt, PJ Washington, Nick Richards and Quade Green, all rated higher than Gilgeous-Alexander as high school prospects.

While Knox — the Cats' leading scorer — fouled out with just eight points, his second-lowest total of the season, Gilgeous-Alexander stepped up on a big stage. That's the way it should be with this squad, he said.

"I think on this team, we have so may weapons that, when a team tries to narrow in one night on one guy, you saw what happened tonight. So many other guys can do so many other things and beat you in other ways," Gilgeous-Alexander said.

While most of his UK classmates were playing in the McDonald's All-American Game and Jordan Brand Classic this spring, Gilgeous-Alexander was in Kentucky for the Derby Festival Classic.

He scored 29 points in that all-star game, earning most valuable player honors.

One of the spectators in the Freedom Hall crowd that night was Snider, the star of U of L's victory over UK last season.

"I knew he could play. He's a great guard," Snider said. "I knew he was a great player from watching him there."

And Gilgeous-Alexander knew his time would come for a similar performance in a UK uniform. It just happened to come in one of the Cats' biggest games of the season.

"I've just been working, and when you work, good things will happen," he said. "And it happened tonight."

John Calipari wants PJ Washington to emulate NBA star Draymond Green

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Dec. 29, 2017

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The stat line was good: 16 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists and a block for Kentucky freshman PJ Washington in a rout of rival Louisville on Friday. But the effort was better.

Washington helped set an early tone against the Cardinals, delivered a message that the young Wildcats were going to be aggressors in this annual showdown. He hammered down big dunks, out-jumped Louisville for important rebounds, drove and drew contact, hit tough shots and sank all his free throws.

"I just tried to come out and be aggressive," Washington said. "Tried to bring a little energy to us."

He did things that didn't end up in the box score but did demonstrate a level of effort Kentucky's coaching staff has been trying all season to extract from the 6-foot-7 McDonald's All-American with a 7-5 wingspan, 43-inch vertical leap and football player's physique.

"PJ played, in my opinion, his best game of the year," coach John Calipari said.

Washington seems to be inching toward the player Calipari and the Cats believe he can be, and that would be a huge lift as UK opens SEC play on Sunday at home against Georgia.

He averaged 7.8 points in his first six college games and now 12.7 over the last six. Once a major liability at the free-throw line, Washington has made 20 of his last 22.

He has delivered strong performances in three of the Cats' last four games — the exception being last week's disappointing loss to UCLA.

"I think he had to redeem himself," point guard Quade Green said. "I think that's what he was really thinking about."

Now for the next step in Washington's development: to blossom into the truly "positionless" player Calipari recruited him to be for Kentucky. There was a flash of that Friday when he blew by his man, driving baseline from the corner, hanging to avoid another defender and laying the ball into the basket.

After attempting just one 3-pointer in his first eight games, he has tried six in the last four games, making two. The shot looks pretty good. So Calipari has a new role model for Washington.

"A great guy for him to watch and emulate is Draymond Green. Draymond is not a bully — but he can be. He will be, but that's not what his game is," Calipari said. "If he's open, he's shooting threes. He's making free throws. The entire time, Draymond has a spirit about him that drags everybody else. See, your body language screams. It screams. And you can drag people one way or do what Draymond does and drag them the other way to get them more inspired, wanting to play."

That's why Washington's performance against Louisville was so significant.

"I'm just telling PJ, 'Be that guy.' I'm telling him, 'Shoot balls.' There's no one telling him not to shoot. I'm telling him to drive, 'but you've got to get by them and you're not trying to bully; you're trying to have a spirit about you,' " Calipari said. "But I'm proud of him."

Washington said he's embracing his coach's message to the team before the Louisville game: You're not freshmen anymore.

"We're veterans now," Washington said. "[Calipari] is not really soft on us anymore. He's tightening up the pressure a little bit and we just have to come out and respond to it."

That will be important in the coming days, as the Wildcats open their SEC schedule at home against Georgia, at LSU and Tennessee and home against Texas A&M. The Bulldogs (9-3) own quality wins over Saint Mary's, Marquette and Temple — and trounced rival Georgia Tech.

The Tigers (9-3) have quality wins over Michigan and Houston and just won by 10 at Memphis. The 19th-ranked Volunteers (9-2) have beaten No. 14 Purdue, N.C. State, Georgia Tech and Wake Forest (the latter two on the road) — and narrowly missed an upset of North Carolina.

The fifth-ranked Aggies (11-1) have top-50 wins over West Virginia, Oklahoma State, Penn State and Southern California (on the road). That's a formidable start to the league slate.

Kentucky could sure use Washington doing his Draymond Green impersonation for that gauntlet.

"He's like that now," Quade Green said. "He can dribble, pass, shoot, get to the foul line. He demands [the ball], he's aggressive, plays defense. So I see the same intentions in him."

Gilgeous-Alexander, Gabriel provide UK basketball winners off the bench

By: Fletcher Page | Courier Journal | Dec. 31, 2017

Kentucky had one starter play only three minutes Sunday against Georgia and two others who combined to make only 4 of 15 shots.

But the Wildcats (11-2, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) still didn't lose their conference opener on New Years Eve.

That's because coach John Calipari has options on his bench that can be winning factors this season in the grind-it-out Southeastern Conference and beyond come tournament time.

"That's the nature of this team; we've got guys that can come off the bench and be the best player on the floor on any given night," Kentucky freshman guard Hamidou Diallo said.

Diallo, who had 10 points and 10 rebounds in the Georgia (9-3, 0-1) win, joined Quade Green, who posted 15 points, as the only two Wildcats' starters to reach double figures in scoring.

So Calipari turned to his reserves, known for much of this season for length, energy and effort and lately for increased production.

For the second straight game, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, the long-armed 6-foot-6 freshman guard, paced Kentucky in scoring, this time with 21 points on 12-of-13 at the free-throw line. And sophomore forward Wenyen Gabriel grabbed 10 rebounds and drilled a critical late-game 3-pointer in a team-high 34 minutes. And sophomore forward Sacha Killeya-Jones and redshirt sophomore forward Tai Wynyard covered fine defensively when the Wildcats faced foul trouble in the first half.

So, yeah, Kevin Knox, who five times this season led Kentucky in scoring, was off and missed 8 of 10 shots from the field. And, yeah, PJ Washington spent most of the first half in foul trouble and finished with seven points and only two boards. And, yeah, Nick Richards' stat line read: one missed shot, no points, no rebounds, one turnover and two fouls in only three minutes.

But in the end, according to the bottom-line on the scoreboard at the final buzzer, none of that mattered. It was Gilgeous-Alexander, who notched his career-high with 24 points last week against Louisville, who

every fan wearing blue and white in Rupp Arena wanted to have the basketball down the stretch.

He's proving himself tough enough to close games out.

"He's our best player," Calipari said. "And I said the greatest thing about him, he's coming off the bench and not saying anything. Don't worry about his shots or anything, he's just playing."

And in the beginning, when Georgia threatened to take a double-digit lead and Washington, Richards and Knox each tallied two fouls, it was Gabriel who provided energy and rebounding to keep Kentucky within striking distance going into halftime.

"Here's a kid that fights and tries and knows," Calipari said of Gabriel, who missed 7 of his 9 shots but was too valuable in other areas to remove from the game.

"That's just the way I play — I play my heart out," Gabriel said. "You can't really evaluate yourself and your game on how you're shooting. If you do that, it will be up and down all the time. You've got to go out there and play your game. You're not going to make every shot."

Some of Kentucky's players, Calipari said after beating Louisville, at times can play as if the weight of the world is on their shoulders. Pressure created by now (winning the next game) and pressure initiated by later (NBA draft stock) and pressure from any number of things college students face can lead to subpar performances.

"You never know what somebody is going through," Diallo said.

But, more times than not this season, when something hasn't worked with his starting five on the court, Calipari hasn't had to look far for the answer.

Gilgeous-Alexander, averaging 11.6 points and team-highs with 4.2 assists and 2.3 steals per game, and Gabriel, averaging 6.6 points and 6.1 rebounds, are there waiting to sub in and go to work.

"Personally, I just know that I'm blessed amongst a lot of people in the world," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I'm thankful for every opportunity, so I have no reason to worry about what everyone is saying on the outside or the expectations for me. I just want to play basketball and do the thing that I love."

The best player on this UK basketball team probably isn't who you expected it to be

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 1, 2017

John Calipari didn't mince words when asked about Shai Gilgeous-Alexander following Kentucky's 66-61 victory over Georgia on Sunday night.

"He's our best player," the UK coach said with no qualifiers.

Over two games in three days — against archrival Louisville and then in the league opener against the Bulldogs — there was no doubting that statement.

Gilgeous-Alexander picked up where he left off, following up his career performance against the Cardinals with another star turn Sunday, pouring in 21 points to go with five rebounds, four assists, three steals and two blocked shots — and coming up big in the biggest moments — against Georgia.

"The greatest thing about him," Calipari added, "he's coming off the bench and not saying anything. Doesn't worry about his shots or anything. He's just playing."

The UK coach repeated his claim from Friday — when Gilgeous-Alexander torched U of L for 24 points — that the freshman from Canada plays the whole game with a smile on his face, not feeling the pressure of the big moments that sometimes hinders his young teammates.

Calipari name-dropped former NBA point guard Sam Cassell, called him the "best late-game player" he'd ever coached, and likened the demeanor that led to that crunch-time success to the stuff he sees in Gilgeous-Alexander.

Calipari said he once asked Cassell what made him such a great player in those situations, why he was often the guy who made the shots at the end.

"And he said, 'Because I'm not afraid to miss them.' See, when you think every basket, miss or make, identifies who you are, it's hard to play," Calipari said. "Because every shot is like, 'Oh, man, I can't play, I can't play, I can't play, I can't play.' You can't be that. Shai's just playing."

"I know Coach is a good coach, and he's going to put all of us in a position to be successful as a group and as individuals," he said. "So I'm not really worried about it."

A follow-up question on whether that type of praise was "validation" for a player ranked near the bottom of UK's 2017 recruiting class, Gilgeous-Alexander responded simply with a quiet, humble, "Yes, sir."

Though not as highly touted as most of his classmates, Gilgeous-Alexander was still a top-50 national prospect, and recruiting analysts were high on his basketball future. Few, however, probably thought he'd be making this kind of impact this early in his career in the kind of situations he's seen over the past few days.

Gilgeous-Alexander had a run of four consecutive double-digit scoring games a few weeks back, then scored nine points against Virginia Tech and just six — his lowest total since the second game of the season — in the loss to UCLA.

He said he went back and watched the film from that day against the Bruins — he's been watching more film lately, he pointed out — and noticed something.

"I realized there were spots where I let the defense off the hook, where I could attack them and put pressure on them," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I just tried to take advantage of that in these last two games."

Georgia Coach Mark Fox praised the UK freshman's ability to draw fouls — he was 12-for-13 from the line Sunday night — and called that one of the biggest differences in the game.

Gilgeous-Alexander had so many other big moments.

His three-pointer with 4:39 left put Kentucky up 54-53, and the Cats never lost the lead again after trailing for most of the night.

"I'm confident in my shot, obviously," he said. "And I knew that I was open and I had to shoot it and was ready to shoot it, and I just knocked it down."

Three minutes later, his steal led to a three-pointer from Wenyen Gabriel, a shot that put UK up six points with 1:39 left — the dagger play of the contest.

Gilgeous-Alexander has started just two of 13 games this season, but he's third on the team in minutes played, and — after this three-day stretch — is now the third-leading scorer on the squad with 11.6 points per game.

He said Sunday night that he didn't necessarily come to Lexington with a chip on his shoulder. He just wanted to prove to his new teammates that he could play alongside them at this level.

Mission accomplished.

"He's been incredible these last two games," said Hamidou Diallo, the Cats' leading scorer this season. "He's been the best player on the floor these last two games. That's the nature of this team. We got seven or eight guys that can come in and be the best player on the floor on any given night. And that's why we're going pull out wins. I feel like that's why we have the upper hand on certain teams, because it's just so many guys to stop. You stop one guy, and the next guy picks it up.

"That's just the nature of it. I'm just happy for him, and he's just going to keep getting better every day."

John Calipari plays old, wise motivational card with Cats: Disrespect

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Jan. 2, 2018

A funny thing happened after Kentucky basketball bludgeoned rival Louisville by 29 points on Friday and came from behind to beat a solid Georgia team on Sunday: The Wildcats dropped a spot, from No. 16 to No. 17, in The Associated Press poll.

A funnier thing happened after freshman Shai Gilgeous-Alexander went wild in both of those games, delivering a total of 45 points, 10 rebounds, 8 assists, 6 steals and 2 turnovers: He didn't win SEC Freshman or Player of the Week.

A predictable thing happened after both of those snubs: John Calipari, who has been saying for weeks that his players haven't gotten enough attention nationally, made damn sure the team heard all about it.

"I just want them to know: 'You're not getting the respect, but that means you're going to have to earn it. You haven't gotten it yet,'" the coach said Tuesday, on the eve of Kentucky's first true road game of the season. "I just said, 'Look, if we go to LSU and they beat us by 40, then [UK skeptics] were right. If we go down there and win, well then maybe they're not right.' It probably won't change things, but we'll have to keep proving what we are — and we basically haven't."

There is so much right about what Calipari said there. First of all, it is a brilliant, Nick Saban-esque move to use things that he could not possibly care less about (January media polls and weekly conference awards) to prod his young team. They think you stink! You'll show them!

"Cal brought that up," point guard Quade Green said. "It bothers us [but] we just gotta fight harder now. That gives us motivation."

Secondly, there is at least some acknowledgement from Calipari that Kentucky (11-2) has not, in fact, really proved much yet. While it was an impressive and encouraging three days for the Wildcats to close out 2017, the fact remains their two best wins are at home against Virginia Tech and Louisville, the No. 40 and 42 teams in Ken Pomeroy's advanced statistical ratings.

They've played two decent teams away from home — Kansas and UCLA — and lost to both on neutral courts. Calipari knows this, and he started to acknowledge it and leave it at that, but then he put back on his motivational speaker hat.

"Our schedule is a top-20 schedule, so it's not who we played," Calipari said. "It's that people watch us and really don't think we're that good. I said [to the team], 'Either they don't think you guys are that good or they don't think I can coach. Or how about this one? Maybe it's both: They don't think I can coach or you can play.'"

He grinned as he recreated this conversation for the media on Tuesday, then shared his parting thought to the players.

"So just use it as fuel," Calipari said.

The Wildcats, who start five freshmen, will need it over the next week. In that span, they'll visit LSU (9-3), which already has top-50 wins over Michigan and Houston, and No. 23 Tennessee (9-3), which has beaten 13th-ranked Purdue and three ACC teams, before coming home to host No. 11 Texas A&M (11-2).

Kentucky, which actually climbed one spot (15 to 14) in the coaches poll, will embark on that gauntlet with a perceived slight in its heart — planted there by sportswriters who might only halfway be paying attention and a clever coach.

"That's definitely crazy. There's not really any words for it. We just have to go out and prove ourselves," sophomore forward Tai Wynyard said of the Cats' AP ranking. "There's nothing you can say to fix that. I'd say just blow people out by 50. That's kind of what we gotta do here.

"No, but just keep playing our game and keep winning. They're not going to be able to keep dropping us if we just keep winning."

Thanks to a punisher, PJ Washington, and finisher, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, the Cats won a game they usually lose at LSU

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Jan. 3, 2018

This could've so easily gone the other way for Kentucky, and in most years it has. John Calipari brings a young team into a hostile environment for the first time, somebody for the other side plays the game of his life as the atmosphere builds to a boil, and the Wildcats lose.

Six times in eight years at UK, that's what happened to Calipari and the Cats in their first true road game of the season. This year's team had every excuse it needed to follow that familiar script Wednesday night at LSU.

They're Calipari's youngest team yet, three of them got the flu this week and the Tigers led by five at halftime, seven in the second half and one in the final four minutes. Those fever-riddled teenaged brains must've been throbbing when the crowd at Pete Maravich Assembly Center boomed like a cannon over and over.

LSU's star guard, Tremont Waters, hung 18 and 11 on the Cats and wasn't even the biggest thorn in their side. That was Duop Reath, a 6-foot-11 senior who predictably produced the game of his life — 24 and 11 — by dunking almost everything, except the pair of 3-pointers he heaved in for good measure.

This was exactly the way Calipari and Kentucky lose their first true road game almost every season. But just when we all thought we'd seen that movie before, super sixth man Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and enigmatic power forward PJ Washington wrote an alternate ending: Kentucky 74, LSU 71.

"I liked our will to win at the end," said Calipari, who afterward revealed that Hamidou Diallo, Nick Richards and Sacha Killeya-Jones were all so sick they couldn't play more than about 90 seconds at a time. "This team, when they fight and when they battle, we've got a chance."

That's the biggest lesson 17th-ranked Kentucky (12-2, 2-0 SEC) will bring home from Baton Rouge.

Gilgeous-Alexander punctuated his third straight dazzling performance — he had 24 points against Louisville, 21 in a comeback win over Georgia — by hitting two free throws with 16 seconds to go and then smothering Waters until he threw up a wild, off-target tying attempt. He scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half, almost all of them on determined drives.

"They figured out what was going on and just put their head down," Tigers coach Will Wade said, "which was very, very smart."

Washington, whose effort seems to come and go like the breeze, was fully engaged when it mattered against LSU. He too scored 14 of his 18 points after intermission, mostly on power moves and even more powerful finishes in the paint.

"We got punched in the mouth in the first half. They were the aggressors and we just let them attack us," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "That was the emphasis: We just had to come out in the second half and be aggressors."

The Wildcats were still down six with 16 minutes to go when, like a whirlwind, Gilgeous-Alexander had a three-point play, steal, assist and another driving layup in the span of 71 seconds to give Kentucky the lead.

He and Washington, whose three-point play with three minutes to go pushed UK back in front, had help. Slumping star Kevin Knox snapped out of it and sank 7 of 12 shots on his way to 16 points and 11 rebounds. Sophomores Wenyen Gabriel and the ill Killeya-Jones came up with a series of huge offensive boards.

Those were all encouraging developments for Kentucky, which found a way to win a game Calipari's teams typically lose, but none is bigger than this: Gilgeous-Alex-

ander, the seventh-highest rated recruit in UK's 2017 class and still not even a starter for the Wildcats, proved once again that he can be their finisher.

"We feel like a lot of point guards in this conference can't really guard him," Washington said, "so we're just going to keep going to him until somebody stops him."

Knox Accepts Coach Cal's Challenge, Busts Slump

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Jan. 5, 2018

Kevin Knox knows he's important to his Kentucky team.

His skill and shooting – all in a 6-foot-9 package – can't be duplicated by anyone else on the roster, so he needs to play well for the Wildcats to click. That knowledge comes with pressure.

That pressure, however, was eased in late December.

Over back-to-back games against Louisville and Georgia, Knox couldn't get a shot to fall or a thing to go right. But in spite of his personal struggles, UK picked up a pair of victories.

"I know I went through a rough two games, but that's what my teammates are for," Knox said. "We fought through it as a team."

Knox shot just 4 of 18 over the course of those two games, including only 1 of 7 from 3-point range, and had two of the only three single-digit scoring performances of his career. Thankfully, he had his teammates and coaches to pick him up, both on the floor and off.

"They helped me get through it," Knox said. "Coach Cal, Coach KP (Kenny Payne), all the coaches walked me through it, talked me through it and just made sure I kept playing hard and just focused on winning and focus on the team."

That meant the last thing Knox needed to think about was the fact that his shots weren't falling and he wasn't scoring as he normally does.

"Cal challenged me not to focus on offense so much and focus on defense and rebounding," Knox said. "I took the challenge."

The challenge Calipari issued isn't anything complicated. It's a simple shift in mindset.

"So I'm just trying to get his mentality – most cases it's trying to get guys to think different," Calipari said. "You're trying to help them create new habits. You're not trying to break old habits – you just won't. You're trying to create new habits when they're in situations this is how they'll react. You have to put them in those environments daily to get them to react the way you want them to react."

Knox has apparently reacted well, as he put an end to his struggles in UK's win over LSU on Wednesday. He came out firing, drilling all four of his first-half shots, including a pair of 3s, and scoring 10 points. Knox was just as pleased with his eight rebounds though.

"I think I was thinking too much when I was going through my two(-game) stretch," Knox said. "Last game, I came out and focused on defense and rebounding. I think I had eight rebounds in the first half, so if I can just focus more on defense and the team, and not focus so much on offense I think that'll help the team out."

Needless to say, his teammates were happy to see him return to offensive form after he finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

"I think it was big for him," Gabriel said. "I think that was big for us as a team too. Coming through here, you're going to have your ups and downs as you play through here. You're not always going to play great the entire time. So I think it was good for him to know that even when he wasn't playing good, the confidence in his teammates to step up and really pull through with a couple big wins while he was in sort of a slump. It's good to have him back now and we just gotta keep playing for each other."

The Cats will certainly need that all-for-one attitude come Saturday at 9 p.m. No. 17/14 UK (12-2, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) will travel to Knoxville, Tennessee, to face No. 23/22 Tennessee (9-4, 0-2 SEC).

"They lost their last two and of course they're playing Kentucky, so they're going to go out there and give it their all," Knox said. "I know it's going to be a great game. I know every player is going to play their best because one, they're 0-2, and two, they're playing Kentucky and everyone plays their best against us."

The game will be played in Thompson-Boling Arena, where the Cats haven't won since the 2014-15 season. Just as he embraced Calipari's challenge to focus on defense and rebounding, Knox is excited to take on that hostile environment.

"I love road games, I love when we play against other teams, I love the crowd and all that yelling," he said. "That's what I like to see. It'll be another good test for us and hopefully we can get there, fight through it and win as a team."

Kentucky self-reflecting following Tennessee loss

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Jan. 8, 2018

Sometimes, after mistakes, you just need to look yourself in the mirror.

For the No. 21/20 Kentucky men's basketball team, self-reflection was the end goal of its film review following a loss to Tennessee in which it was out-fought and out-toughed, according to its head coach.

"The way you do it is, first of all you show it on tape so they can accept it's what happened," John Calipari said during Monday's Southeastern Conference coaches' teleconference. "Then you just – it's a process, day-to-day, and you just keep working on it. You get guys to accept I've got to change."

The Volunteers, looking to avoid an 0-3 start in SEC action, quickly erased the Wildcats' eight-point halftime lead by the first media timeout. When freshman forward PJ Washington, who was a start in the opening half, went down with leg cramps at the 12:33 mark, and Wenyen Gabriel, who knocked down three 3-pointers in the first half, fouled out shortly thereafter, UK sank fast.

Tennessee pushed Kentucky around for the entire second half, got what it wanted on the offensive end of the floor and no other Wildcats stepped up offensively, producing a 19-point second-half collapse.

"The thing that disappointed me with Tennessee was, it was a tie game. It was like 57-57," Coach Cal said. "We had guys acting like the game was over. Like, wait a minute, fight to win the game. Fight to keep it close. They're going to make shots. You're going to have to fight. You're going to have to come up with balls. That's something that they're learning."

It's one thing for a team to lose a game because it didn't play its best, or perhaps because the opposing team couldn't miss that night. But when the coaching staff publicly calls out a team's toughness – or lack thereof – it resonates more.

"I think what it always starts with is some self-reflection, collectively as a team but also individually," UK assistant coach Joel Justus said. "... The guys that we were talking about – that we were concerned about toughness and that Cal was concerned about toughness – we watched the game with them individually, we watched it collectively and made them kind of answer the questions."

No questions needed to be asked to Washington, who not only scored 11 first-half points against Tennessee but also

limited UT leading scorer Grant Williams to two points on 0-for-4 shooting over the first 20 minutes. Washington, who sat on the bench for much of the second half with a trainer by his side trying to get the cramps out of his left leg, said he was frustrated because he wanted to help his team get back in the game. Like Calipari, Washington also believes future UK opponents will watch the second half of Saturday's loss and try to push the Cats around.

Nick Richards, who had nine points and eight rebounds against Tennessee, said he doesn't believe the Wildcats have a toughness issue, but he did acknowledge they were "out-toughed" by the Vols over the weekend.

"I think we just got out-toughed by Tennessee in that one game," Richards said. "I don't think our toughness is something to be questioned about."

Justus said when the second half began Saturday in Knoxville, Tennessee, a "street fight" broke out and Kentucky wasn't up to the challenge.

"We got thrown out of a basketball game into a street fight and we took a step back," Justus said. "That's the bottom line. I mean, anyone who was there or watched it and didn't see that obviously was sleepy and not watching the game because that's exactly what happened when the second half happened. They came out and basketball wasn't played. It wasn't dirty and I'm not saying (that). It was just a straight-up, 'We're going to out-tough you for the next 20 minutes.' And they did."

Kentucky finds toughness, leadership in victory over Texas A&M

By: Jeff Borzello | ESPN | Jan. 10, 2018

LEXINGTON, Ky.-- The vibe around Rupp Arena prior to Kentucky's game Tuesday night against Texas A&M didn't scream optimism.

Starting point guard Quade Green was ruled out less than an hour before tip-off, and three other scholarship players were out injured. Meanwhile, Texas A&M was getting two of its starters back from injury.

The Wildcats were down to seven scholar ship players, with five freshman starters-- against a team that started three juniors, a senior and a freshman.

Oh, and coach John Calipari preached all week to anyone that would listen that his young Kentucky group wasn't tough, with a blown second-half lead from Saturday against Tennessee to prove it.

Two hours later, Kentucky eked out a 74-73 win over A&M, sending the Aggies to their fourth straight loss.

Calipari wasn't totally convinced by the Wildcats' improved toughness on Tuesday, but it was a step in the right direction.

"Toughness doesn't mean roughness," he said. "Toughness means that you're engaged, that you're playing people before they catch the ball, that you're meeting people before the ball hits the rim when you rebound, that you're sprinting the floor every time and bouncing, and you're talking. We got closer. But that's still going to be a work in progress. Until we get really good at that, we're going to be who we are."

What Kentucky is right now is not what it's going to be in two months, and the Wildcats (13-3, 3-1 SEC) are still taking baby steps toward what Calipari wants them to become by March. But If Saturday's loss showed a team that has trouble fighting back when it gets hit in the mouth, Tuesday's win showed a team that can throw some punches-- albeit inconsistent ones -- and survive with its back against the wall.

They can't do it for 40 minutes yet, especially defensively. Kentucky had several good stretches of zone defense, especially late in the game. A&M (11-5, 0-4 SEC) couldn't complete entry passes to Tyler Davis and Robert Williams, and the Wildcats collapsed with length on dribble-drives. But there were other times Kentucky switched off defensively for several possessions and A&M did whatever it wanted on the offensive end.

"We did some half-decent stuff," Calipari said. "But we went to man, they'd score five straight times."

The signs are there of a team beginning to come together, though. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander stepped in for Green and had 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists. He carried the offense for much of the first half. Hamidou Diallo scored 10 straight Kentucky points during one stretch and finished with 18 points. Kevin Knox had a couple of 3-pointers and 15 points.

But the key factor on this team moving forward is going to be PJ Washington-- and everyone seems to know it.

"The past couple games, he's been a little bit more vocal than the rest of us, and he's been playing really well and we're all starting to follow him a little bit," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "He's a really intense guy, and he gets us going, energy-wise."

The inexperienced Wildcats have been screaming out for a leader all season, and it was never more evident than in the Tennessee loss. Washington cramped up in the second half with the game tied 47-47 and didn't return. The Volunteers outscored Kentucky by 11 in the final 12-plus minutes with Washington out of the game. After that game, Calipari said the Wildcats had no shot to win once Washington went out.

Despite some missed free throws late, Tuesday was another step toward Washington making this his team. He finished with 16 points and four rebounds, but more important, he took charge in the final minutes.

"He has to take leadership of this team," Calipari said. "He has to do it now. He's the toughest guy. If a guy is not doing what he has to, you have the ability and the right now to tell him."

Calipari clearly has higher aspirations for this team. He knows where his players are in their development, but if he thought at all the Wildcats were a borderline top-20 team and one of several contenders for an SEC title, he would have been happy in Tuesday night's postgame press conference.

He didn't exactly seem that way.

He continued to talk about toughness and Kentucky's lack of consistency in that department; the missed free throws that allowed Texas A&M multiple chances to tie or win the game in the final minute; the poor communication and rotation on defense; and the Wildcats losing the ball and hoping for fouls instead of finishing strong in traffic.

"If you want to be tough, you can't try to be cool, you can't try to be cute, you can't try to be Hollywood," Calipari said. "You can do those things, but you're not a tough, focused, engaged player."

Calipari is clearly trying to get a point across. He knows Kentucky has the talent and potential to be a factor in March but knows they're not there yet. And he knows any sign of lethargy or a loss of focus-- for even a minute-- at the wrong time can end a season.

"We need those guys to play with a sense of urgency, a desperation, a toughness," Calipari said.

Tuesday's short-handed response was a step in that direction.

Wenyen Gabriel carving out his own space quite nicely, thank you

By: Darrell Bird | The Cats' Pause | Jan. 14, 2018

With yet another impressive haul of high school standouts arriving at Kentucky last summer, coach John Calipari warned any players left over from the 2017 season that they would have to "carve out space."

That was especially true for sophomore Wenyen Gabriel, whose playing time last

year slowed to a trickle by the time March Madness arrived.

That was then, this is now and Gabriel looks like a Benihana chef.

On Saturday, the 6-foot-9 forward played 29 minutes in Kentucky's 74-67 victory at Vanderbilt. He scored only seven points but led the team with nine rebounds to go with two blocks, one assist and one steal.

"Wenyen's effort, you've got to keep him in the game," Calipari said afterwards.

"Wenyen was big for us," guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander said. "That's what we all expect from him. His energy he brings and he plays 100 percent all the time, that's what we really need to win."

It was perhaps Gabriel's best effort in a season with some impressive highlights. He had 10 rebounds in Kentucky's SEC opening win over Georgia and 16 points against UCLA. He is averaging 27. 2 minutes per game in SEC play, up from 21.9 in non-conference play.

"I think it's just being here longer and competing in a lot of these games," Gabriel said recently. "I don't go in there with any type of nervousness. I'm just going out there trying to compete. I'm just trying to win, trying to show my leadership on the floor."

Gabriel is finally living up to everything Calipari hoped he would get from the unpolished player from Manchester, N.J., by way of Khartoum, Sudan.

"Wenyen is not even the same player," Calipari boasted in preseason. "He's the relentless guy I recruited. Second and third tips and just keep going. And he's stronger. I would say Wenyen is one of our top three guys. His energy is unbelievable."

Gabriel, who did some boxing in the offseason as part of his strength and conditioning, knew he was in for a fight.

"In Wenyen's case, I told him, 'There are some other guys just like you, but they're young. They haven't been through this,'" Calipari recalled. "But I can't do it for you. I can't wait for you."

Now Gabriel is trying to bring all those freshmen along for the ride.

"It's just a mentality of fighting. That's what I'm trying to get passed on to the rest of my teammates," Gabriel said. "I know they're freshmen, but that's the type of attitude we need in order to win games. We gotta keep up with that attitude. If we play like that with our talent together, I don't think there's a lot of teams that can beat us."

But he has a soft spot for those rookies who might be following Gabriel's own difficult path, most notably Nick Richards, who played just 12 minutes against Vanderbilt.

"A lot of guys are maturing quicker than others," Gabriel said. "But just because you're not maturing as fast doesn't mean you're not a talented player. You see a couple people going through the slump a little bit, but it's good to see them fighting through it."

Winning close games is a skill Kentucky's freshmen were not supposed to possess

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 14, 2018

Think what you will of Bruce Pearl, but bellowing Bruce can still coach a little, a point he's proving now on the plains with Auburn the basketball surprise of the SEC, 16-1 overall and atop the league standings at 4-0.

After that, the early returns from conference tilts are about what you might expect, with the glaring exception of the whiplash that is Texas A&M, so good in pre-conference play (11-1) and so dreadful in the SEC at 0-5 and now parked on the bottom rung of the league ladder.

Then there's Kentucky.

You know, the youngest team in America, if not the history of America, Kentucky.

You remember, these- new-Cats-aren't-quite-as-good-as-the-old-new-Cats, Kentucky.

Wasn't the better-than-ever SEC supposed to, thankfully, yank John Calipari's current club back to the pack?

Different year, nearly the same old story. After five league games, Kentucky sits 4-1, tied with Florida just a half-game behind Auburn. The four UK triumphs have come by a grand total of 16 points — 66-61 over Georgia; 74-71 at LSU; 74-73 over Texas A&M and 74-67 at Vanderbilt on Saturday.

On the one hand, you'd like to see the Wildcats put some distance between themselves and the opposition. On the other hand, there's a skill to winning close games, a skill that fuzzy-faced freshmen are not supposed to possess.

"Those freshmen from Kentucky did a great job playing with poise down the stretch," said Vandy Coach Bryce Drew on Saturday. "They've been in a lot of close games and they made free throws and shots down the stretch."

"Winning plays" was the term freshman forward Kevin Knox used afterward, parroting his head coach. A string of nail-biter wins is pretty remarkable for a team that (a) doesn't have a grizzled veteran to show how it's done and (b) the last two games has been reduced to a lean and mean seven-man rotation without starting point guard Quade Green (back strain).

Surely confidence plays a huge role. Once a team executes enough down the stretch to win a conference game, it builds the belief it can make those very same plays to win another close conference game down the stretch.

"It's absolutely true that confidence in close games ties into who's going to be on the floor when you close games," Drew said. "Those are all important ingredients during the postseason and advancing in the post-season. We're still searching for those combinations that can close out games."

Kentucky and Vanderbilt were tied at 59 with 5:01 left before UK outscored the Commodores 13-8 to spoil the Commodores' shot at another Memorial Magic memory.

Meanwhile, around the league on Saturday, Florida trailed Mississippi 72-70 with 1:46 left in Oxford but lost 78-72 and fell to 4-1 in league play. Missouri led Arkansas 63-60 with 2:49 to let in Fayetteville but lost 65-63 and fell to 2-2 in the SEC.

Down 11 at the half at Mississippi State, Auburn rallied to take an 11-point lead in the second half, only to see the host Bulldogs pull to within two with 2:58 left. No matter. Pearl's players outscored MSU 9-3 the rest of the way to keeping their SEC sheet clean with a 76-68 win.

And apparently the heartbreak of successive one-point losses to LSU (69-68 at home) and Kentucky (74-73 on the road) was too much for Texas A&M, which barely put up a fight in a 75-62 loss at Tennessee.

Truth be told, you'd better get used to these close games. There will be plenty more to come.

"I'm asking for the impossible," Calipari repeated Saturday. "I'm playing a bunch of freshmen and I'm asking them to go on the road in a hostile environment — 'Black-Out Night' (or) 'Shirt Night' — and let's win the game. And it's going to be close but you've got to tough it out. But that's what my job is."

Vanderbilt Shows Glimpses of Potential Impact in Debut

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Jan. 17, 2018

John Calipari wanted to ease Jarred Vanderbilt into things. He wanted Vanderbilt to play some low-stress minutes as he shook off nerves and continued to build confidence in the foot that had forced him to miss the first two-and-a-half months of the season.

The circumstances of Vanderbilt's debut

didn't allow that to happen. Not at all.

Kentucky was being whistled for fouls at a rate that had the Wildcats on track to commit their most in a non-overtime game in 21 years. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was among them, picking up three in the first half alone while UK's other point guard, Quade Green, stayed home from a trip to South Carolina to continue his recovery.

So there Vanderbilt was, a freshman triggering UK's offense as point forward in a hostile road environment.

"When Shai was in foul trouble, we needed another point guard," Kevin Knox said. "Jarred stepped up."

The circumstances of Vanderbilt's debut – a 76-68 loss in which No. 18/16 UK (14-4, 4-2 Southeastern Conference) blew a 14-point lead – also rendered his first appearance more of a footnote than would have seemed possible.

The build-up to it was so all consuming it demanded its own hashtag, with pregame warmups and Vanderbilt's participation in them becoming the subject of obsessive interest. So when he was finally summoned by Coach Cal to check in at the 13:08 mark of the first half, #VandoWatch had finally reached its culmination.

For the 14 minutes he played at Colonial Life Arena, Vanderbilt proved there was good reason for the hype.

"He was pretty good for the first time out," Calipari said. "He's trying to figure out what we're doing. We really haven't scrimmaged with him in. We've done some half-court stuff. I thought he was pretty good for the first time out."

Sure, he had an unforced error or two, not to mention a couple easy scoring opportunities missed out of sheer excitement to be on the floor, but Vanderbilt's skillset is unique. The mere sight of a 6-foot-9, 214-pound forward bringing the ball up the floor was proof of that.

"Jarred's a great ball-handler," Knox said. "He has a good feel for the game, good passing skills so he can definitely help us handling the ball sometimes."

Vanderbilt possesses abilities that could transform this Kentucky team if they are channeled properly. As Coach Cal has often said, Vanderbilt is a willing a passer, a fact borne out by the team-high three assists he dished out and a number of passes that could have added to that total had he and his teammates been more accustomed to playing together.

Vanderbilt also snagged five rebounds in his limited time, the third-highest total on the team, including a couple far outside his area. UK needed every rebound it could get, as South Carolina owned a 40-35 edge in that category. After Tuesday night, the Cats are 1-4 in games in which they fail to outrebound their opponent and a perfect 13-0 when they have a positive rebounding margin.

More generally, Vanderbilt plays with the same kind of energy he showed when he was limited to cheering on the bench. UK was lacking that kind of energy as South Carolina erased a 14-point deficit over the final 13:25. It was Vanderbilt, in fact, who scored UK's final basket with 6:12 left, but Coach Cal didn't deem him quite ready to play in the game's final minutes.

But Vanderbilt will get there.

"I thought he did a good job and it was his first game back, so once he gets the feel for it and gets the plays down it could be another great addition to the team," Knox said.

Jarred Vanderbilt plus Quade Green equals R-E-L-A-X for Cats fans

By: Kyle Tucker | UKathletics.com | Jan. 17, 2018

COLUMBIA, S.C. — And now for the good news.

Part I of our two-part analysis of Kentucky basketball's collapse at South Carolina on Tuesday night focused on the grizzly how of a 14-point lead dissolving into an 8-point loss to the Gamecocks. Part II is all about who gives us reason to believe these Wildcats can still make a deep run come March.

Let's begin with Jarred Vanderbilt, an almost-hero for short-handed, foul-plagued Kentucky in his very first college game. The 6-foot-9 former McDonald's All-American finally made it all the way back from his third left-foot injury in the last two years when he checked in with 13:08 to go in the first half.

The Cats trailed by seven and he managed to make things worse at first — a badly missed shot, turnover, two missed free throws and foul in the span of 77 seconds — before settling in and showing off the exact skill set head coach John Calipari has been describing — drooling over — for months. Vanderbilt played 14 minutes and delivered 6 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and a block.

"Told me prior to the game" he was going to play, Calipari said. "He's trying to figure out what we're doing. We really haven't scrimmaged with him — we've done some half-court stuff — but I thought he was pretty good for the first time out."

Better than good. Vanderbilt looked like a midseason addition who can transform the Wildcats.

He truly was a "point forward" on Tuesday, assuming that role for long stretches when Shai Gilgeous-Alexander got into foul trouble. Vanderbilt flashed a tight handle, terrific passing and both the willingness and athleticism to crash the glass. More than once, he appeared to be playing on a trampoline.

"Jarred stepped up," fellow freshman Kevin Knox said. "Jarred is a great ball handler, has a good feel for the game and good passing skills. It's his first game back, so once he gets a feel for it and gets the plays down, he'll be another great addition to the team."

South Carolina head coach Frank Martin opened his remarks about the Wildcats' secret weapon off the bench by asking, "Was he a McDonald's kid? Yeah, that's what I thought," as if to say: What, did you think he'd stink?

But we really didn't know for sure, right?

Was Vanderbilt going to be worth the wait for increasingly impatient UK fans? It had begun to feel like maybe this whole thing was going to be a big letdown — and his first few shaky moments no doubt had many screaming something to that affect at their televisions Tuesday — before the kid was suddenly everything we'd heard he would be.

"I think he's real good, very talented," Martin said. "You saw some of his abilities [Tuesday night] with those kind of mid-range floaters when you guard him with a little smaller guy. When you guard him big, he goes off the bounce. He's going to be another great addition to their team."

Vanderbilt gives the Cats six players 6-9 or taller and eight former 5-star recruits — as soon as the starting point guard comes back. Oh, right, Quade Green and his strained back. Kentucky played its third straight game without him and it showed at the end of each one of those games.

The Wildcats somehow still won against Texas A&M and Vanderbilt last week despite a rash of late turnovers and missed free throws that probably don't happen if the starting point guard who makes good decisions and shoots 80 percent at the line is available.

"The guy I think they miss is Quade Green," Martin said. "Watching them play with Quade and watching them play without him, it's a different team — especially when they play a team that gets out and guards them. Because it puts too big a burden on [Gilgeous-Alexander] that he's got to carry for too many minutes in the course

of a game."

Gilgeous-Alexander had played brilliantly in five of the previous six games, including Herculean 39-minute efforts against the Aggies and Commodores, but the poor guy seemed to collapse under the weight of carrying Kentucky on Tuesday. He had just 6 points and no assists to go with 6 turnovers.

As good as he has been, Gilgeous-Alexander will be even better when he gets some help.

At last check Monday, Green was "getting close" to returning. When he does, and as Vanderbilt becomes more and more comfortable and earns a bigger role, we'll finally begin to see the Kentucky team Calipari expected to be coaching this season.

So while there were some serious problems for the Cats in Columbia, an optimist might point out that it was just a weird game, turned on its ear by 59 total fouls (most in an SEC game this season), that UK wasn't ready to win with oddball lineups and without Green.

"We'll bounce back," Knox said. "This is a good game for us, good physical team [and] we're going to see a lot more down the road. We'll go from here and learn how to make winning plays. We just gotta stick together as a team and just listen to Coach and we'll be fine."

Gilgeous-Alexander makes contributions by getting defensive

By: Lindsay Schnell | USA Today | Jan. 18, 2018

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Like most long-limbed guards, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had a bad habit of letting his man go by him in the open floor.

That's the blessing and curst of a 7-foot wingspan: sometimes, you allow yourself to get a little lazy.

Gilgeous-Alexander did this a lot at Hamilton Heights Christian Academy in Chattanooga, Tenn., letting guards go by him before he'd simply reach around, tip the ball loose and sprint to the other end for an easy dunk. His high school coach warned him that his little trick wouldn't work in the SEC, and certainly not when playing under Hall of Fame coach John Calipari of Kentucky.

The freshman guard learned that his first week of practice, when he experienced the full vocal ability of Calipari, now in his ninth year at UK.

Gilgeous-Alexander recalls this with a sheepish smile and shake of his head.

"Oh man, he screamed for the first time once he realized how badly disciplined we were defensively," he told USA TODAY Sports. Then Gilgeous-Alexander offered an explanation: "You know in the summer, we're just playing pick up trying to get to know each other, so defense wasn't really on our (to-do) list."

But for Gilgeous-Alexander, who has been thrust into a starting role for the Wildcats as Quade Green recovers from a back injury, defense has always been at the top of the list. And for the often-overlooked point guard who last week earned SEC Player of the Week honors, it will likely be what carries him into the pros one day.

A long wingspan defender, coupled with quickness, can spell disaster for opposing offenses. Gilgeous-Alexander's length allows him to gamble for an off-ball steal without completing taking himself out of the play. He can blanket opposing guards without fouling, letting his hands and arms obscure their sight line while allowing them room to dribble. No one likes shooting over an outstretched hand and the longer, bigger outstretched hand of Gilgeous-Alexander means opposing guards have to create extra space when they rise up. If matched up against someone quicker, Gilgeous-Alexander's length allows him to recover faster than someone with a normal reach. Add in what Kentucky assistant Tony Barbee calls "unbelievable instincts, whether we're in a man or zone," and you've got all the makings of a defensive star.

And an unheralded one at that.

Unlike many of the one-and-one prospects who stop in Lexington, Gilgeous-Alexander wasn't a household name when he committed to the Wildcats. Green, a McDonald's All-American and Jordan Brand game participant out of Philadelphia, got the hype of being UK's next great point guard, while Gilgeous-Alexander, who opted to play with the Canadian National Team instead of on the AAU circuit, mostly flew under the radar.

Originally a Florida commit, Gilgeous-Alexander decided in October 2016 — late for a member of the 2017 class — that "I could go somewhere else and maybe get more out of myself, push myself more," and re-opened his recruitment.

Though he was initially taken aback by Calipari's blunt assessment of his game this fall, Gilgeous-Alexander liked the challenge Calipari presented. Instead of praising Gilgeous-Alexander, Calipari told him he'd need get his shot off quicker and get considerably stronger if he wanted to play at Kentucky. And while Gilgeous-Alexander is happy to defer to other, bigger stars like Kevin Knox (14.6 ppg, 5.7 rpg) and Hamidou Daillo (13.3 ppg), playing with an All-American lineup has been an adjustment, too.

"Learning how to play on a team full of future pros, it's not as easy as everyone thinks," said Gilgeous-Alexander, who averages 12 points. "Coming from high school, you play with two, maybe three total, who are going to the next level (college). You don't have to worry about all five guys because coaches don't even let half the team touch the ball. Here, you have to learn how to play with one through 12."

Offensively, he needs work. Gilgeous-Alexander shoots 45.5 percent from three, but picks his spots, having attempted only 22 looks from behind the arc. He misses the summer, when he would often sneak into Kentucky's practice facility at 2 or 3 a.m. — "I can't always sleep," he shrugs — and work on his shot. That's virtually impossible now that he has class.

"What I like about this place is that you still feel valued if you're not scoring 20 a game," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I think everybody at every school across the country wants to get to the NBA as fast as possible but more specifically, I just want to maximize my potential as fast as possible."

In mid-December, Calipari told USA TODAY Sports, "Shai's a better offensive player than people give him credit for, but also, no one has figured him out yet — because we have really figured him out yet."

That's changed in the last week though. Gilgeous-Alexander was huge for Kentucky in two wins last week, averaging 19 points, 5.5 rebounds, 5.5 assists and shooting 61.9 percent from the field while playing 39 minutes a night in victories over Texas A&M and Vanderbilt.

But, as evidenced by his performance Tuesday night in a loss at South Carolina, there will be plenty of growing pains. Gilgeous-Alexander finished Tuesday with six points (3-of-9 from the field), six turnovers and four fouls in 28 minutes, sitting for long stretches when Kentucky desperately needed solid point guard play. With 89 seconds left in the first half, Gilgeous-Alexander drove, pushed off and was whistled for his third foul. This happened less than 20 seconds after he had subbed in and drew the ire of Calipari, who was visibly exasperated on the sideline.

It's an example of what Calipari described to USA TODAY Sports as a bad habit of a lot of freshmen: They try to make the hard, highlight play instead of the simple, obvious one.

"These guys, their whole career they've been an And-1 tape," Calipari said. "In practice (one day) Shai threw a behind-the-back pass. Like, what are you doing?!"

Green could return when the No. 16

Wildcats host Florida Saturday, which will likely move Gilgeous-Alexander back to the role he knows best, as a defensive stopper. And while others want offensive glory, he's fine with defense being his calling card. One of Gilgeous-Alexander's favorite players is Allen Iverson. While others love Iverson for flashy passes, Gilgeous-Alexander is a fan because "his motor is underrated," especially defensively.

One of the best defensive players in Kentucky history is Rajon Rondo, the current New Orleans Pelicans guard who set the Wildcats single-season steals record with 87 in 2004-05. Gilgeous-Alexander, who has already grabbed 35 steals, could top that number depending on how deep Kentucky plays into the postseason. Rondo, who stands 6-foot-1 and also has a 7-foot wingspan, is an easy comparison to Gilgeous-Alexander.

But Barbee thinks there's a better example: Julyan Stone, who played for Barbee at Texas-El Paso.

Stone has been career backup as a pro, bouncing around professionally for seven seasons. The 6-foot-6 guard—who also boasts a 7-foot wingspan — is back in the NBA now, playing with Charlotte after a three-year stint overseas. His career NBA stats (1.3 points, 1.1 assists) seem underwhelming. But almost a decade of professional basketball has taught Stone his value.

"If you're a defender, you can always find a job," Stone told USA TODAY Sports. "On most pro teams, you've got 10-12 guys who want to score the ball. Well, not everyone has the work ethic or the toughness to play defense every night. Not a lot of guys like to do the dirty work."

He's also got some free advice for Gilgeous-Alexander: That tip-the-ball-from-behind move? It works even less well in the NBA. So learn to stay in front of your man.

Why John Calipari is redefining the assist statistic for UK basketball

By: Jon Hale | Courer Journal | Jan. 24, 2018

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Sorry about your luck, PJ Washington.

John Calipari's new directive to his players is pass, pass and pass some more. He is changing the assist rule to credit players for creating shots for teammates regardless of whether the basket is converted.

Emphasizing passing means deemphasizing scoring.

"When guys are doing great passing, you're hugging them, you're telling them," Calipari said after a 78-65 win over Mississippi State. "And when a guy gets 22, you don't even mention it. You don't even say anything."

So, Washington's 22 points and six rebounds barely deserve notice in Calipari's new world. Shai Gilgeous-Alexanders six official assists and "about 18" Calipari assists garner all the praise.

"I guess it really makes you look better," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "You look like you have more assists. We're trying to share the ball. That's one of our main focuses the past couple days: Trying to share the ball with each other and get easier shots."

Against Mississippi State, Kentucky totaled 11 official assists, two less than Saturday's loss to Florida, but four more than the loss at South Carolina a week ago.

Kentucky has totaled more than 11 assists just once in the last five games. Gilgeous-Alexander has accounted for 30.9 percent of the team's assists all season.

"Like he said, Shai can't be the only one," freshman forward Kevin Knox said. "Other people have got to step up and start getting assists."

Calipari's new system suggests he expects just baby steps from a young team when it comes to actual assists.

Instead, he'll settle with any sort of ball movement for now.

"I'm trying again to make them willing passers, OK," Calipari said. "...You pass it to somebody and they miss the shot. Still giving you an assist. You pass it to somebody and they get fouled. Still giving you an assist. If you're a big man and you outlet the ball and that guy leads to a break, I'm giving you an assist. If you throw it ahead and someone else throw it is to somebody else for an assist, I'm giving you an assist, too. There's a hundred ways now to get an assist. But to get an assist you must start by passing the ball."

Calipari posted his redefined assist totals on the board in the locker room after the win, though no UK player made available for interviews seemed to pay close enough attention to recall how exactly he scored.

"I'll be passing a lot," Knox said. "...I'll take it. I'm just going to keep doing that, passing the ball."

Finishing with a low total is perhaps more revealing than a high one in Calipari's world.

"Any pass you make is going to be an assist now. So when you end a game and you have one assist in 28 minutes, what is that telling you?" Calipari said. "'Man, I passed one time in this game.' Yeah, one time. I'm doing everything I can. Pass the ball to each other. Make the easiest pass you can make. Every extra pass we make, we become a good team, a better team."

Calipari implementing rotation now that team is healthy

By: Derek Terry | The Cats' Pause | Jan. 25, 2018

Now that Jarred Vanderbilt and Quade Green are healthy, Kentucky coach John Calipari will implement a rotation for the first time this season. The Wildcats have typically only had seven players available for games this season, though some games only six of the now eight-man rotation played.

"You don't want anybody playing more than 30 minutes and mainly maybe down to 28 minutes," Calipari said. "We'd like to get Jarred (Vanderbilt) up to 15, 18 minutes if we can. We've got to figure out some things offensively for him, where he's comfortable. You have most of the guys playing 28, 27 minutes unless there's foul trouble or really poor play. Probably both the big guys playing near 18 minutes a game, maybe 20."

Freshman forward Kevin Knox and freshman guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander are the only two players averaging at least 30 minutes per game. Gilgeous-Alexander played at least 38 minutes for three consecutive games in conference play when Green was out with a back strain. The Canadian guard is still averaging 35 minutes per game since Green's return.

"Personally, (the rotation) didn't feel different for me," Gilgeous-Alexander said after the Mississippi State game. "I got the same amount of minutes in the game."

One other big change is the addition of Vanderbilt. He's averaging just under 13 minutes per game since returning on Jan. 16. The 6-foot-9 freshman has struggled offensively, making just five of his first 17 shots. However, Vanderbilt has brought a strong presence in other parts of the game. He had seven rebounds in 11 minutes against Mississippi State on Tuesday night, prompting Calipari to say in his postgame press conference that Vanderbilt has "got to play."

"You get a rotation going and guys know when they're in and when they're going in," Calipari said. "Being ready and you have your time. What are you going to do with the minutes you have now? There's no excuses. Let's go. Just got to continue to take away any opportunity, when you self-evaluate, to make it about anything else other than what do I have to do to get better?"

One player not accounted for in the

rotation is sophomore forward Tai Wynyard. Wynyard has played in one conference game and eight of Kentucky's 30 games this season. He's missed most of the season with injury, but once he returns, Wynyard would give the Wildcats one more big man if foul trouble became an issue.

Calipari said the rotation would be fluid as well, meaning anyone who isn't in the rotation now could still break in.

"You can take a guy out of the rotation," Calipari said. "If a guy is pouting or he's not playing well, he's not rough enough; just, 'Coach, get him out of the rotation.' So now we'll have an eight-man rotation or seven-man rotation. They have the right to do it. They can take a guy out of the rotation."

Gabriel proves that numbers don't mean anything at UK

By: Chris Leach | Kentucky Kernel | Jan. 25, 2018

When you are trying to get to the NBA as quickly as possible, usually the best thing to do is score as many points as you can so scouts notice you.

However, at Kentucky, that belief has proven to be false a couple of times, as some of UK's brightest stars in the NBA did not post eye-popping stats while they were in college.

"I feel like I don't believe it's about numbers here, when you play at Kentucky," Wenyen Gabriel said. "We're on the biggest stage, so everyone, you're watching the games anyway, so you just go out there and play your game."

Such a claim is true regarding one of the best players to wear a Kentucky jersey in the John Calipari era – Anthony Davis.

Davis only averaged 14.2 points per game during the 2011-2012 season, compared to his over 25 points per game now in the NBA. Davis also only took the fourth most shots on the team during that national championship winning season.

Karl-Anthony Towns, another first overall pick under Calipari, only scored 10.3 points per game his freshman season while taking the fourth most shots on the team as well. Devin Booker averaged 10 points a game in that same season, and has nearly doubled that average since entering the NBA in 2015.

While Gabriel doesn't have the talent yet of Davis, Towns and Booker, he is the most recent player at UK to believe in the idea that stats do not matter, and instead helping you're team win matters more, even if it means sacrificing some numbers in the box score.

"I don't think about numbers while I'm playing. I just go out there, play with my energy," Gabriel said.

Gabriel's style of playing with high-energy has earned him a significant role on this year's young team. The sophomore averages less than 10 points a game, but he still plays the amount of minutes the starters do.

Gabriel has earned those minutes by making the plays Kentucky needs to win games, whether it be securing a rebound with two hands, blocking a shot, or simply passing the ball to an open player instead of taking a contested shot.

"He's an example of why we show film and show the players, the younger guys especially, 'Look at what he's done. Look at how he fought to get this offensive rebound and he was outside of the 3-point line,'" associate head coach Kenny Payne said of Gabriel.

However, being the energy-guy hasn't always been easy for Gabriel. He attempted to fulfill a similar role last season off the bench, but did not play any meaningful minutes during the second half of last season due to his body wearing out.

Gabriel worked hard in the offseason to prevent a slump from happening again, and so far that extra strength is paying off for him. He's able to fight for rebounds harder and not get pushed around in the post as much as he did last season.

"You don't get tired as quickly. You feel you're stronger on the court. You have more confidence in your defense and you go get rebounds, defend better," Gabriel said of his extra strength.

As the Cats continue SEC play and get closer to March Madness, they will need Gabriel's hustle plays more than ever. In a game decided by single digits, sometimes all it takes to gain an advantage is to make the plays Gabriel has made for UK all season.

"His energy, his effort and what he's giving us on the floor, just the fight of it, is an example of what we need every player to do," Payne said.

Kentucky's come-from-behind win at No. 7 West Virginia a turning point for their season

By: Rob Dauster | NBC Sports | Jan. 28, 2018

Kentucky is 21 games and 78 days into the 2017-18 season, and for the first time we can definitely say that we've seen why this group can get to a Final Four.

Down by 17 points with 17 minutes left, playing against No. 7 West Virginia on the road, having turned the ball over 10 times in the first 10 minutes of the game, the Wildcats looked dead in the water.

And then proceeded to reel off a 21-2 run, pulling away down the stretch on the back of 34 points from Kevin Knox in an 83-76 win over the Mountaineers.

It was one of the most surprising and unexpected come-from-behind wins that I can remember seeing, and the question now becomes whether or not this was a fleeting moment of greatness in an otherwise underwhelming season for the Wildcats, or if this was 'the moment,' the turning point for a young-but-talented, flawed-but-still-learning roster.

And that is a question that I don't think we'll have an answer to anytime soon, which is part of the intrigue here.

For the first time since John Calipari showed up in Lexington, Kentucky feels like a team of underdogs. Yes, this is a roster that is full of five-star recruits and has a handful of players that will likely end up playing in the NBA. I understand that. They are never going to be a Cinderella. This is not the plot of Hoosiers.

But not all five-star prospects are created equal. Some are Marvin Bagley III or Deandre Ayton or Trae Young, and some are guys that need some seasoning before their find their footing at this level, guys like Nick Richards, or Wenyen Gabriel, or Hamidou Diallo or, hell, everyone on this Kentucky roster, save for maybe Knox.

In hindsight, it was silly to think that this group would dominate this season. An uninspiring start to the year led to an unimpressive non-conference slate which led to SEC play, where Kentucky lost three of their first seven games, and we should have seen it coming. Many did, but not to this extent. As the weeks passed, it looked more and more like this was just who Kentucky was.

Which led us to Saturday's second half, where the youngest team in the country, a team that hasn't handled pressure well, a team that turns the ball over on more than 20 percent of their possessions was down by 17 on the road in one of college basketball's best environments against Press Virginia.

And they won.

If Kentucky's season was the plot of a movie, this would be the turning point.

Knox, the guy that entered the program with all the hype in the world, finally played like a superstar. Gabriel proved to the college basketball world just how important he is to this team, with his energy and leadership. Jarred Vanderbilt showed off the dynamic he can bring to this team. Rich-

ards, who has spent the last two and a half months looking somewhere between lost and clueless, powered home the tip-dunk that sealed the win.

In that movie, the next five minutes would be a montage of powerful dunks and swished threes as the Wildcats won game after game before a dramatic victory at the end of the movie sending them to the Final Four with a win over their nemesis, those Big Bad Duke Blue Devils.

Saturday in Morgantown was the "left side, strong side" scene in Remember The Titans. It was the moment when Billy Hoyle and Sidney Dean realized they could win $5,000 if the played in that 2-on-2 tournament together in White Men Can't Jump.

Whether or not that is how this narrative plays out remains to be seen.

West Virginia has now lost four of their last five games, and in three of those losses they led by double-figures in the second half.

Maybe Kentucky just got West Virginia at the right time.

Only time will tell us the truth.

But I will say this: I'm entirely more intrigued in how Kentucky's season will play out than I was 12 hours ago.

And hopefully, Big Blue Nation didn't abandon ship when I did.

Road Warrior Knox Carries UK to Memorable Comeback

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathleits.com | Jan. 28, 2018

All anybody talked about was the house of horrors Kentucky was about to walk into.

But as Kevin Knox heard the talk about the challenge the Wildcats would face in traveling to face West Virginia, all he could think about was how fun that all sounded.

"I love playing away games," Knox said. "I love going against people on the road. That's something I loved growing up, just other teams yelling, hyped, student section, all that."

Knox got his wish, as Saturday night's game between the Wildcats and Mountaineers was talked about as the toughest ticket in years in the notoriously hostile WVU Coliseum. With ESPN College GameDay in town and the West Virginia faithful primed and ready for the evening tip, it was a step up from the high school gyms in Florida where Knox learned to love playing on the road.

The thing is, Knox stepped up his game too. The freshman poured in 34 points and seven rebounds, playing an instrumental role in sending the road crowd to the exits disappointed and the Big Blue Nation crowd back home into hysterics. Kentucky (16-5) picked up its biggest win of the season over No. 7/7 West Virginia (16-5), 83-76.

"It's just a big win," Knox said. "I mean, us freshmen, a lot of people doubted us coming into this game. We were down, I think, 10 points. So, it's a big game for us, especially for a lot of freshmen on this team. The locker room was just crazy. There was a lot of jumping, hype, smiling and all that stuff. (John Calipari) was really happy for us."

Actually, Knox undersold the deficit by a fair bit.

UK fell behind 10-3 in the opening minutes, trailed by 15 at halftime and was faced with the unenviable task of overcoming a 17-point deficit with 17 minutes to play. Every time, it was Knox the Cats turned to. He made 11-of-17 field goals, 5-of-8 3s and 7-of-8 free throws, while only Hamidou Diallo (13 points) joined him in scoring double figures, and he did it all while committing just one turnover against West Virginia's vaunted pressure defense.

"He didn't settle," Calipari said. "He didn't settle. He went at it. He took fouls. He went at the basket."

For every huge shot from beyond the arc, Knox had another physical finish at the rim. When UK was floundering in the opening minutes, Knox delivered a pair of rim-rattling dunks to steady the ship. When the Cats needed to make a run to get back in the game early in the second half, Knox scored 12 points to key a 21-2 spurt, the last two coming on a dunk to give a 58-56 lead.

"I mixed the game up, went to the basket, got to the free-throw line, hit some big shots," Knox said. "They were on me about driving the basketball, and then sometimes when they didn't close out I hit the shot. So, I mean, I just kept playing aggressive, kept doing what they asked me to and it went well for me."

Then, when West Virginia clawed back to a 74-all tie in the final 90 seconds, it was Knox who drilled the go-ahead 3 to put UK up for good. Of course, the player who loves going on the road had to let the opposing crowd know about it.

"I was hitting some big shots today so I had to talk a little trash because they were talking trash to us, so I had to go back at them," Knox said. "This is what I love. I love road games. I love playing in big crowds and all that. That's just something I live for."

Knox has had a solid freshman season by most any reasonable measure, but Kentucky doesn't exactly do reasonable measures. On a team as young as his, Knox knows more is demanded of him than what he had been delivering, in spite of the solid averages of 14.6 points and 5.7 rebounds he sported coming in. That's why he responded to a challenge from Coach Cal to make more shots from outside by committing to make 500 jumpers a day.

Knox has now made 16 of 23 from the field and 9 of 12 from 3 over his last two games.

"It's paying off," Knox said. "I'm going to keep doing it, keep working hard, keep working out with the coaches, keep getting up shots. It's going to pay off in games."

Knox and Kentucky clearly have some momentum after completing the third-largest comeback in Kentucky basketball history and doing it against a top-10 team. They don't plan to squander it.

"We're just going to keep with this momentum and keep going forward," Knox said. "Never take steps backwards. Just keep going up from here. I mean, this is a big win, like I said, it gives us all the confidence. Next game we come out with energy because we just won a big game. This is, like I said, a big game for us and we're just going to keep moving forward."

While John Calipari tried to 'figure out' Jarred Vanderbilt, he and Wenyen Gabriel still shine

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Jan. 28, 2018

MORGANTOWN, W.V.- West Virginia coach Bob Huggins had trouble remembering Wenyen Gabriel's name after Kentucky's 83-76 win. He had no trouble remembering the sophomore forward's impact though.

"Whatever his name is – Gabriel – we couldn't keep him off the glass," Huggins said. "I'm not sure how hard we tried, but whatever it was, we couldn't keep him off the glass."

It was freshman Kevin Knox who starred for the Wildcats in the rally from a 17-point deficit with 34 points, but Gabriel and freshman forward Jarred Vanderbilt were almost as important with barely any offensive impact.

Gabriel scored six points and tallied three assists but hit just 1 of 7 shots. Vanderbilt missed all five of his field-goal attempts but made one free throw.

The two 6-foot-9 swingmen combined for 20 rebounds though.

Kentucky basketball faces West Virginia As West Virginia exploded to a 17-point lead with just less than four minutes remaining in the first half and took a 15-point lead into the halftime locker room, the Mountaineers outrebounded Kentucky

21-20.

As Kentucky pounded its way back with a 50-point second half, the Wildcats grabbed a 29-13 advantage in second-half rebounds. Gabriel and Vanderbilt accounted for nine rebounds in the second half. Gabriel blocked three shots after intermission.

"I just said look, we're playing with spirit," Calipari said. "PJ (Washington) was hurt. Not enough to give us. We just needed spirit."

Gabriel, the de facto veteran on the team as the only returner to play meaningful minutes last season, has been a steadying presence for the Wildcats throughout the season.

Vanderbilt's contributions have been a much-needed boost since his return from a foot injury that cost him the first 17 games of the season.

"He brings that toughness," Calipari said. "He'll go get balls. We've just got to figure him out offensively."

Vanderbilt's 0-for-5 night dropped his season field-goal percentage to 22.7 (5 for 22) in four games. After totaling 11 rebounds, including seven offensive boards, in just 11 minutes against West Virginia, he is averaging 7.3 rebounds in 12.3 minutes per game since his return.

Those non-scoring contributions led Calipari to call Vanderbilt into his office for a one-on-one meeting this week.

"I called Jarred in and said 'Listen, I need you on the court. I need your rebounding. I need your toughness. I need your ability to pass and be that guy,'" Calipari said. "'What do you want me to run? Write up a play. Tell me how you want me to use you offensively so that you're comfortable.' He's just not comfortable right now."

Shooting was not regarded as a strength of Vanderbilt's game as a five-star recruit, but there is hope for improvement from his current lows as he shakes off more rust from the long absence.

It was difficult not to be encouraged about the team's prospects as a whole after the second-half performance Saturday.

"To be able to do that in this environment means we're growing up," Calipari said. "Part of it is we have a full roster, which we have not had for how long? Three weeks? Maybe longer because Jarred is just starting. And we still haven't figured out Jarred yet."

What if Calipari "figures out" Vanderbilt's offense and Gabriel can better capitalize on his 37 percent success rate from 3-point range? Watch out.

But until then, the West Virginia comeback proves there's plenty of other ways for the duo to contribute.

"I just couldn't watch them manhandle the guys we had in there anymore," Huggins said. "I was just getting ill. They manhandled them, now. They manhandled our forwards."

Kevin Knox found his marbles in Morgantown, and might've changed everything for Cats

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Jan. 28, 2018

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — In the cinematic masterpiece known as Major League II, slugger Pedro Cerrano has his manhood challenged when a teammate tells him he has "no marbles!" He promptly delivers a game-winning home run for the hapless Cleveland Indians and trots around the bases while pantomiming an act of carrying two boulders below his waist.

Like Cerrano, Kentucky freshman Kevin Knox has been challenged all season by coach John Calipari to be "that guy" or "the guy" for the Wildcats. The sweet-shooting, 6-foot-9 McDonald's All-American is the one player capable of putting this entire baby-faced team on his back and carrying it.

But Knox had often struggled in that role, showing brilliant flashes before fading away for long stretches. Until finally, on Saturday night at seventh-ranked West Virginia, with Kentucky reeling and in need of a hero, he found his marbles.

"He didn't settle," Calipari said. "He went at it."

Knox scored a career-high 34 points and grabbed 7 rebounds as the Cats erased a 17-point deficit over the final 17 minutes to win 83-76. When he made a 3-pointer to put UK ahead for good with 70 seconds left, Knox re-enacted Cerrano's home run celebration. Think Aaron Harrison in the 2014 NCAA Tournament.

That, and a night full of trash talk, represented a significant change in the mild-mannered freshman forward. It might have also represented a turning point in this entire season for the Wildcats.

"Just stayed aggressive," said Knox, who had scored single digits four times in the previous 10 games and surpassed 20 points just once in that span. "Kept playing aggressive, kept doing what they asked me to, and it went well for me."

It went much better than that. Knox scored Kentucky's first seven points of the game when the rest of his teammates seemed shell-shocked by WVU's suffocating defense and a thunderous, capacity crowd.

After Kentucky fell behind by 17 points with 17 minutes to go, it sounded like the game was being played inside a jet engine. And yet, in the midst of that chaos, Knox delivered 10 points and 4 rebounds in the next 6 minutes to ignite a 21-2 run.

He punctuated that outburst with a dunk that gave the Cats their first lead since the opening minute of the game. He let the Mountaineers and their stunned fans know about it.

"I love atmospheres like that," Knox said. "I love playing away games, love going against people on the road. That's something I loved growing up — the other team yelling, hyped, student section, all of that gets me going. I was hitting some big shots today, so I had to talk a little trash. They were talking trash, so I had to go back at them. This is what I love ... something I live for."

But Knox's in-game heroics aren't the only reason Kentucky (16-5) will be back in the AP Top 25 by Monday afternoon. It's as much about the work he has been doing on the days in between games.

During a brutal three-game cold streak, during which the Wildcats lost to both South Carolina and Florida to fall out of the AP poll for the first time since 2014, Knox hit just 2-of-14 3-pointers. So he committed himself to seeing 500 jump shots go through the hoop every day before he leaves the gym.

In the two games since starting that routine, Knox has hit 16 of 23 shots, 9 of 12 3-pointers, 12 of 14 free throws and scored 53 points in 70 minutes.

"Every day since I said that, I've been in the gym before and after practice making sure I've got my makes in," Knox said. "It's paying off. I'm going to keep doing it, keep working hard, keep working out with the coaches, keep getting shots up, and it's going to pay off in the games."

He might've lost his marbles for a while, but now they're found, and Kentucky can once again dream as big as his celebration Saturday night in Morgantown.

In stirring win at West Virginia, young Kentucky grew up before our very eyes

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 28, 2018

Admit it Big Blue Nation, you awoke Sunday morning to a brand new day with a brand new way of looking at your Kentucky basketball team.

Just the night before you'd seen this 2017-18 collection of previously flummoxed freshmen suddenly and unexpectedly click before a hostile crowd inside the West Virginia Coliseum there on Jerry West Boulevard.

Led by Kevin Knox's 34 points, John Cali-

pari's Cats climbed all the way back from a 17-point first half deficit — 15 at the half — to stun seventh-ranked West Virginia 83-76.

His team having fumbled another double-digit lead into a dispiriting loss — WVU had blown a 16-point lead in losing to visiting Kansas less than two weeks before — a red-faced West Virginia Coach Bob Huggins was reduced to near mumbles in his postgame press conference.

"Bottom line," whispered Huggs into the microphone, "they're just better than us."

Practically no one believed that before the game. West Virginia was a 10-point favorite. The Mountaineers were ranked seventh. Their strength, turning teams over as Press Virginia, was Kentucky's weakness, turning the ball over.

The whole atmosphere had a blowout feel to it, what with the blue-and-gold clad faithful obviously doubly pumped for Kentucky's first visit to Morgantown since 1970 and College GameDay being in town, as well.

And the school put on quite the pregame show. The coliseum turned dark, save for a spotlight at mid-court, when the basketball team came onto the floor for the final lay-up line. Huggins was introduced over the PA not during normal starting lineup introductions, but when he first set foot on the floor five minutes before tipoff.

Artist Joe Everson sang the national anthem while painting on a canvas at mid-court. Near the end of the rendition, Everson flipped his mystery work upside down to reveal a likeness of the survivors of Iowa Jima, complete with the red-white-and-blue of the American flag. The place went West Virginia wild.

It went wilder still when the home team turned UK over on the first possession for a steal-and-slam. During one painful stretch, the Cats committed turnovers on five straight possessions. When ageless guard Jevon Carter buried a three-pointer with 3:49 left, the West Virginia lead was 17 points at 38-21. Halftime: West Virginia 48, Kentucky 33.

Just below my press seat atop the lower section, four Kentucky fans heeded the announcement beer concessions would close at the end of the half and quickly left on a run. They returned with full plastic cups only to see UK fail to get the ball in-bounds to start the second half, committing a five-second violation. You felt sorry for the fans. One last round wasn't going to be enough.

Then things changed. Boy, did they change. Knox kept scoring while West Virginia stopped. Kentucky kept making free throws. The tide turned. The Cats turned tough. Instead of applying their signature defensive pressure, the Mountaineers started feeling the pressure on offense. UK crashed the glass while WVU wilted.

Two stats: Kentucky was a perfect 18-for-18 from the foul line in the second half. Kentucky grabbed 13 offensive rebounds to West Virginia's four defensive rebounds in the second half.

"GAB-ree-el, whatever his name is," said Huggins, mispronouncing the name of sophomore Wenyen Gabriel. "We couldn't keep him off the glass."

And just like that UK had executed its biggest comeback win from a halftime deficit since being down 16 (32-16) to Louisville at Freedom Hall on Dec. 18, 2004, only to rally for a 60-58 victory when Patrick Sparks sank three free throws inside the final second.

"They manhandled our forwards," said Huggins.

"Manhandled" was the description Calipari used to describe his team after losses at Tennessee and South Carolina. But maybe that was the old Kentucky, or the young Kentucky. Maybe there's a new Kentucky, the one we saw Saturday night, the one that appeared to grow up right before our very eyes.

Said Knox, "We just kept telling each other, 'This is our night.'"

And Big Blue Nation could say, finally, "That's our team."

Gabriel, Vanderbilt UK's best examples of changing priorities

By: Guy Ramsey | UKAthletics.com | Jan. 29, 2018

John Calipari wants his players to be honest with themselves about how they're playing.

He's found the best way to check in on that is to simply ask.

So Sunday, Coach Cal turned to Wenyen Gabriel. The sophomore was about to launch into the kind of self-critique Calipari is looking for, but he stopped Gabriel in his tracks.

"You played really good," Calipari said. "You played unbelievably good. Your tip that gave Kevin Knox a chance to get fouled probably won the game and the play before you tipped in. You were unbelievable and you were 1 for 7 and couldn't hit the side of a barn."

Gabriel was right to look for things to improve in his game, but a greater lesson was at play. The 6-foot-9 forward had missed nearly all his shots, but no one – maybe not even Knox with his 34 points – had contributed more to Kentucky's win at West Virginia in which the Wildcats had overcome a 17-point deficit with 17 minutes to play.

Gabriel's effort was indispensable, and his nine rebounds – five coming on the offensive end – three blocks and three assists reflected that.

"That's just one of the things I know going into every game that you can control," Gabriel said. "You can control how hard you play, how much energy you bring to the team. I just feel like since that was what the team needed, as a leader that's what I can bring to the table every day. I just focused on that and usually the shots come with it, but they didn't fall last game. I have confidence in myself. It's going to come back."

The interesting thing is that quote could have been attributed to a teammate of Gabriel's just as easily.

Since Jarred Vanderbilt made his debut Jan. 16, he hasn't been able to get much of anything to fall from the field. He's shooting just 5 of 22 (22.7 percent), but Calipari can't help but put him on the floor. He has 29 rebounds in 49 minutes, including 11 in 11 minutes in the win at West Virginia.

"He's a crazy athlete and he just plays hard," Sacha Killeya-Jones said. "That's the most important thing. If he goes out there, and he's still trying to get in the flow of things offensively with the team and everything. He's doing a great job with everything he's doing. He knows, right now, the one thing he can control is how hard he plays and he's doing a great job with that. Eleven rebounds in 11 minutes is insane. That's one of the reasons we won the game."

Vanderbilt has snagged an astounding 34 percent of UK's misses on offense during the time he's been on the floor. For the sake of comparison, Nick Ward of Michigan State currently leads the nation among qualified players in that statistical category at 20.3 percent.

"He's physically tough," Calipari said. "He's got a quick twitch. He's quick to balls. Mind moves great. He sees things before where the ball goes and goes and gets there."

Getting Vanderbilt going on offense is a work in progress, but the energy he and Gabriel play with is a good starting point. It's also a powerful lesson for a young team.

"It shows you it doesn't matter, you all worry about the wrong things," Calipari said. "I had three calls on Wenyen Gabriel like, 'Man that's the kid. He's slender but he still fights.' "

Scoring points, hitting shots and most of the reasons why UK's youngsters became highly touted prospects to begin with don't matter so much anymore. They've been

replaced by unselfishness, effort and a will to win.

"Trying to get them to think the right way and just come together and be about each other," Calipari said. "That game they were. There was a desperation and again anybody that could not stay up with it we just didn't play. For whatever reason, boom, OK now let's go and that was what you saw."

The challenge for No. 21/22 UK (16-5, 5-3 Southeastern Conference) is make that desperation a regular thing. The Cats' next chance comes in a rematch with Vanderbilt (8-13, 2-6 SEC) at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

"You guys fought," Calipari said. "You played with unbelievable spirit in the second half and you beat a really good team on the road. Now you've got to build on it. So you talk about it, but we don't know until the game is – you throw the ball up and we see if they understand that's how you have to attempt to play every game. That kind of fight."

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander told to take over, and he did

By: Joe Mussatto | SEC Country | Jan. 30, 2018

LEXINGTON, Ky. — All it took for Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was a look and three words.

"It's that time," Kentucky assistant coach Kenny Payne told the freshman point guard.

The Wildcats trailed a Vanderbilt team with a losing record by 14 points with 15:23 to go Tuesday night at Rupp Arena. Then Payne gave Gilgeous-Alexander, who had six points at halftime, his marching orders. Over the final 20 minutes, including overtime, he scored 22 points and dished out 3 assists.

"That's when I knew that I had to take the game over," he said of the exchange with Payne. "Not only on the offensive end, but on the defensive end. We had to get stops. That's where it all started."

Maybe so, but Gilgeous-Alexander made his mark by scoring almost at will after the pep talk. He sank two tying free throws with 2 seconds left in regulation and finished with a career-high 30 points in an 83-81 victory that was even more improbable than Kentucky's crazy comeback Saturday night at West Virginia.

The Cats (17-5, 6-3 SEC) got plenty of help from the Commodores (8-14, 2-7 SEC), including a series of missed free throws and an unfathomable foul on Gilgeous-Alexander that sent the game to overtime. But Gilgeous-Alexander also imposed his will upon a helpless Vanderbilt defense, varying speeds and contorting his 6-foot-6 frame to go around the opponent — and sometimes into them — in a relentless pursuit of the basket.

He sank 12-of-19 shots, including his only 3-point try, and 5-of-5 free throws.

"His ability to get to the rim is unbelievable," fellow point guard Quade Green said. "He's long, athletic, can use any hand and is crafty with the ball. He can do anything with it."

But Gilgeous-Alexander's biggest moment came without any obstacles in front of him — at the free-throw line.

Vanderbilt's Jeff Roberson missed the second of two free throws with 5 seconds left and the Commodores up 71-69. Then came a frenzied scramble that Gilgeous-Alexander described play-by-play after the game.

"They almost got the rebound, and then Kevin (Knox) made a big play to tip it, and Jarred (Vanderbilt) made an even bigger play to throw it back into play," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "It went over PJ (Washington's) hands, and I was, 'Oh I've gotta grab this and try to make a play.' Me and the guy went up for it, and the guy fouled me. I had to go to the free-throw line and make two."

That all happened in a 2-second span.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who felt a huge bump on his ribs from the foul, calmly sank both.

"I just knew he was going to make them," Green said. "I just told him, 'You gonna hit these. We ain't worried about nothing.' He said, 'I know.' So that was that."

Gilgeous-Alexander is second on the team in free-throw percentage — behind Green — at 81.5 percent.

"I envision just like I'm shooting them in practice," Gilgeous-Alexander said, "when nothing's on the line."

But so much was on the line Tuesday. Kentucky had erased a 17-point deficit in the final 17 minutes Saturday in Morgantown and hoped to build on that. Instead, it came right to the brink of following that confidence-booster with a big-time bust at home against a Vanderbilt team it was favored to beat by double digits.

The Wildcats needed a hero, and Payne knew who it needed to be this time. Not Knox, who scored 34 against the Mountaineers. Gilgeous-Alexander, who had just six at WVU, answered the call.

"For a freshman in college to walk in these doors, on the biggest stage college basketball, and play every night against teams that are geared to beating you and that are living their whole basketball career to beat Kentucky," Payne said, "for that kid to come out the way he did for us to win says a lot about him."

What was Quade Green thinking on that game-winning basket? 'I just went...'

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 31, 2018

Kentucky had just given up a putback basket with 11 seconds left in overtime to tie Tuesday night's game against Vanderbilt at 81-all, and, for a split-second, the young Cats looked a bit lost.

That's when Quade Green took over.

As Kevin Knox slowly picked up the ball with the intent to inbound, Green turned, looked at him and put his hands up. The basketball body language said, "Give it to me."

Knox did just that, Green glanced upcourt, took it all in, and then he was off.

"You should have a quick mindset," he said after the game. "A quick IQ. That's all a basketball player needs, really. I see the floor. I know there's eight seconds left, so I just went ..."

Green blew by Vanderbilt's Saben Lee with his first move and started upcourt. As his teammates jogged in the same direction, all eyes were on the freshman point guard.

"I threw it to Quade, he was open, I went down the wing and I saw he kept going," Knox said. "Nobody stopped the ball."

Right about the moment Green hit halfcourt, Vandy's Riley LaChance drifted down from the top of the key toward the wing where Green was dribbling. At that point, it looked like Green would have to settle for a jumper or give up the ball.

Instead, he kept dribbling with his right hand, quickly stepped in the direction away from where LaChance was drifting, and flew right by him.

"He just didn't want no part of me driving. I thought he was going to take a charge — that's why I hopped like that," Green said.

That left no one between Green and the basket, and he coasted in for an easy layup to put Kentucky up 83-81 and set the final score with 4.3 seconds left.

The Rupp Arena crowd — quiet for much of the night — exploded.

"It was a crazy feeling," Green said. "It was loud in there. Like, loud. That was probably the loudest I've ever heard it."

The freshman didn't celebrate right away. There were still a few seconds on the clock, after all.

Green jumped back across the baseline

and swatted at LaChance's inbound pass, then trailed the play down the court. It ended with Payton Willis' miss from three-point range at the buzzer.

Right as Green gave the slightest of fist pumps, teammate PJ Washington excitedly shoved him with all his might from behind.

"I wasn't paying attention," Green said with a smile. "He just pushed me, and I just fell. I turned around and saw Jonny (David) running at me, then everybody was on me. Everybody pushing me down on the ground."

UK assistant coach Kenny Payne was also smiling after the game.

"I don't know exactly how many seconds were on that clock when he got the layup, but how about his poise?" Payne said. "There's a lot other things that he could have done and he had the poise to drive that ball to the basket and roll the ball over somebody's head and lay it in the basket. I mean, that shows his maturity as a player and he made a big play in a tough situation."

Green said afterward that the celebratory dogpile — a rare sight for Rupp Arena — was his first. He was laughing even as his teammates — 240-pound Nick Richards among them — splashed on top of him.

"My blood was flowing, so I was good," Green said, still smiling 30 minutes later.

And if a similar opportunity arises in the future?

"I'm shooting that shot," he said. "Always. I've always had that mindset. I like taking the big shots."

Jarred Vanderbilt, Cats coaches agree what his shooting needs is 'just time'

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Feb. 2, 2018

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Jarred Vanderbilt knows exactly what will fix his problem with putting the ball into the basket.

"The only thing, really, is just time," he said Friday before the 5-star freshman forward and his Kentucky teammates headed to Missouri for their next road test. "After a while, getting a couple more games under my feet, the shots will eventually fall."

So far, though, he's made just 6 of 24 field-goal attempts (25 percent) and only 4 of 8 free throws. He's missed badly on some jump shots and even worse on a few close-range shots. One of his made baskets glanced off the top of the backboard and in.

"You don't miss as much time as he missed and there not be some unfamiliarity between him, the team, us, the staff, trying to figure out his strengths and weaknesses and where we can plug him [into the offense] this far along in the season," assistant coach Tony Barbee said. "That's just going to be a work in progress. Every game, you see him getting more and more comfortable. The game is starting to really slow down for him."

Vanderbilt injured his left foot on Sept. 29, the day before UK's first official preseason practice, and did not begin fully participating in team activities until almost three and a half months later, in early January. He made his college debut on Jan. 16 at South Carolina and has played a total of 56 minutes in five games.

"Finally being a part of it, finally being able to go to battle with my brothers, you can embrace the win a little more just knowing that you fought with them," said Vanderbilt, who had 11 rebounds in 11 minutes during last week's crazy comeback at West Virginia, "and it's a great feeling."

The muscled-up, 6-foot-9 power forward who dribbles and passes like a point guard, has been a monster on the glass with 32 rebounds, including 15 offensive, in very limited playing time. That's a staggering 22.9 boards per 40 minutes. He's scored 16 points, dished 5 assists and blocked 2 shots, too.

"His energy is incredible. He's a guy who doesn't need the ball to impact the game," Barbee said. "He's a great passer, he's got a great feel for the game [and] playing hard and energy levels and output levels is also a skill, and it's one of his strengths. His skill level is how hard he plays, how hard he competes. That becomes contagious."

Whenever his offense does catch up with the rest of his game, Vanderbilt projects as a "Lamar Odom type or Ben Simmons type," Barbee said, referring to a pair of top-5 NBA draft picks. "A 6-foot-10 guy who is multi-faceted in his skill level. Guys like that, you can use them to your advantage in any offense."

For his part, Vanderbilt said he expected some rust and pointed out that most of his teammates had an 18-game head start on him to get comfortable and figure out how the fit into Kentucky's offense. He figures he'll eventually fit anywhere he's needed — point guard through center, if need be — scoring from the post, the wing, mid-range jumpers or on either end of a lob.

"Just trying to find my touch," he said. Meantime, "I take a lot of pride in [helping other ways]. Some nights, your shots aren't falling, but for me to still be impactful and produce, whether it's on the glass, defense, steals, just trying to be vocal out there, that's what I try to do. Anything to help my team win."

One big thing he's done is lead by example. While the coaching staff spent part of this week pointing out bad body language — pouting, essentially — in several of their players when things go wrong during a game, Vanderbilt never seems to stop moving long enough to hang his head.

"Because he has no idea what he's doing out there," Barbee joked. "So he doesn't know what to hang onto. He just moves onto the next play because he's just out there trying to figure things out on the run. But it is a good example to watch Jarred just kind of play as hard as he possibly can every possession — until he dies, then we get him out of the game. Jarred has been great, and he's only getting better."

Latest Comeback Bid Foiled, Calipari Needs More from Cats

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Feb. 3, 2018

The Wildcats had tempted fate twice in a row, only to mount furious second-half rallies and escape with victories over West Virginia and Vanderbilt.

The third time was anything but a charm against Missouri.

"Disappointing, but give Missouri credit," John Calipari said. "They beat us. It wasn't just what we did to ourselves. They beat us."

Kentucky tried to follow the same blueprint for the third game in a row, finding itself down double figures in the second half of a trip to Missouri. The first comeback bid brought UK to within one soon after trailing by 10 at halftime. The second gave the Tigers (15-8, 5-5 Southeastern Conference) a scare in the final minutes, but came up short in a 69-60 defeat for the Cats (17-6, 6-4 SEC).

"Give Missouri credit," Calipari said. "They did a great job and fought and I thought we had our chances start of the second half. And then we come down and do freshman stuff and they go basket, basket. And all of a sudden, you look up it's nine. Like, what just happened?"

The outcome hammers home the lesson UK's coaches have been trying to deliver even after back-to-back comebacks: that consistent urgency – not only in the midst of desperation – is the only path to consistent success.

"We got a couple guys that are playing better when we're down," Calipari said. "My thing is, you can't wait to be down to play this way. This has gotta be who we are. This one should sting them, but we'll see."

Jarred Vanderbilt had the look postgame of a player who was suitably stung.

"Whether we're down 10, up 10, just fight the whole game," said Vanderbilt, who can't be faulted for his fight in posting eight points and 10 rebounds. "Give max effort when you're out there and pretty much just bring energy. We need to do it as a team, not just a couple players. The whole team."

The closest UK came to that kind of complete team effort was in the two rallies that bookended the second half. Calipari was coaching his heart out in both, hoping his players would follow his lead. Lapses in focus and execution, however, didn't allow that to happen.

"The problem is you gotta have a team thinking like you think as a coach and if a guy's not playing well, when they're this young, it's hard for them," Calipari said. "They're not thinking about anything else. They're thinking about how they're playing."

For a group of 18- to 19-year-olds, that sort of thinking isn't borne out of any kind of ill will or inherent selfishness. Rather, players are simply unable to snap out of focusing internally.

"What young guys do when they're trying to establish themselves is they're defensive and they're into their own self," Calipari said. "So they lose some of the stuff, the team stuff. And we gotta get through this."

Though not even he has any experience dealing with a team quite this young, the Cats couldn't have a better coach to get them through this than Calipari.

"I've just done it 30 years, so you kind of get to where this is all part of it," Calipari said. "And the good news for me, I haven't been through a whole lot of these. As I get older, they get harder to deal with. But I'll say this: I love winning and enjoy winning and bringing teams together and seeing guys get better. Sometimes you gotta be hard on them. Tell them, 'Your will is not stronger than mine.' And so we're kind of in that with this group."

The road ahead is difficult for UK. Of their eight remaining games, four are on the road and five are against the other five teams in the top six among league standings. There is a way forward, but it's on the Cats to take it.

"I still believe in this team and I still believe we have the most upside of any team in the country," Calipari said. "It's just that unless you play together as a team, unless you create shots for each other, unless you cover for each other defensively, unless you talk more, you can't ever become a good team."

Kentucky freshmen finally accept some responsibility after crushing collapse against Tennessee

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Feb. 6, 2018

LEXINGTON, Ky. — If you're looking for the glimmer of hope in Kentucky basketball's latest meltdown, it was in the reaction Tuesday night.

After the offense was largely impotent and another late lead vanished and the Wildcats suffered their second straight loss, this time a 61-59 home heartbreaker against Tennessee, to reach the brink of a .500 SEC record. After all that, after a season of pleading for accountability, guys stood up and took responsibility.

The boss went first. Coach John Calipari opened his postgame press conference — and then closed it — by accepting all of the blame. After all, his team led by two points and had the ball in the final minute after a Shai Gilgeous-Alexander floater and Tennessee miss.

But the Wildcats looked rattled and probably needed a timeout. Instead, Calipari stuck to a career-long policy of instead letting it ride. So Gilgeous-Alexander turned it over with 49 seconds left and the Volunteers sank a go-ahead 3-pointer with 25 ticks remaining.

Again, no timeout. And again, Gilgeous-Alexander drove into traffic, got stuck and threw the ball away. Tennessee got an easy run-out dunk on the other end with 4 seconds to go and it was all but over.

Improbably, on a night UK started 2 of 14 from the field and finished 3 of 14 from 3-point range, "we gave ourselves a chance to win," Calipari said. "The game was in my hands to do something with and I dropped the ball. It's not these guys. These kids did what they were supposed to do."

Gilgeous-Alexander had, in fact, willed the Wildcats to the cusp of victory. He'd produced 15 points, 6 rebounds, 6 assists, 2 steals a block and just one turnover in his first 38 minutes of carrying Kentucky. Then he coughed it up twice and the game was over.

When it was — when 24th-ranked Kentucky had fallen to 17-7 overall and 6-5 in SEC play and almost certainly out of the Associated Press poll again come Monday — Gilgeous-Alexander slowly climbed into one of three interview chairs in the bowels of Rupp Arena and faced the cameras.

"It means a lot" that Calipari would take the heat, he said, "but I did it myself. I take full responsibility. I turned it over twice in a row at the end. I could've prevented it. I could've made a game-winning play or could've gotten my teammate a game-winning shot or something like that, and I take full responsibility."

That's not nothing. Calipari has said several times this season that he has to pry "my fault" out of players when they make mistakes. This team of all freshmen and sophomores actually had a film session recently that was entirely focused on forcing guys to raise their hands and take blame.

But suddenly, after one of the biggest gut punches of the season, a missed opportunity to boost their NCAA Tournament resume with a win over No. 15 Tennessee (18-5, 8-3), there were Gilgeous-Alexander and two teammates owning it.

"No, it's my fault," said Quade Green, who hit his first five shots when the rest of the Cats couldn't throw it in the ocean early. He had 15 points, made two of the team's three 3-pointers. "I gave up the game-winner. I should've put my hands up, made him drive. I didn't, backed up, let him shoot."

Lamonte Turner, who'd already swished three 3-pointers Tuesday, rose up in front of Green and buried the go-ahead three with 25 seconds remaining.

"I ain't going to sleep tonight," Green said after playing his best performance since returning from a back injury that cost him three games. "It's everybody's fault today. We're a team. We all lose as one, as a team. We're growing from that."

And there was Nick Richards, the freshman 7-footer who snagged 8 rebounds and delivered one emphatic block to help keep Kentucky hanging around even on an often abysmal night offensively, feeling equally at fault.

"As players," he said, "we all have to take responsibility for our mistakes."

These Wildcats certainly have their problems — not the least of which is the next two games coming on the road at Texas A&M and Auburn — and some familiar red flags were raised again Tuesday.

Not enough outside shooting. Not enough toughness in the paint. Not enough help from supposed star Kevin Knox, who scored just three points over the final 11 minutes. Too many mind-boggling mistakes by Hamidou Diallo, who had had 0 points, 0 rebounds, 0 assists, 0 steals and 2 turnovers in 13 minutes and was glued to the bench for the final 8:24 of a close, critical game.

And still, Calipari walked away feeling almost encouraged. Perhaps because enough of his players — and he — could stand up and say loud enough for everyone to hear it: My fault.

"We're on the right track now," Calipari said. "If this is who we are, I'm feeling good."

'I'm Not Cracking': Calipari Resolute in Defeat

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Feb. 10, 2018

John Calipari was adamant, is adamant and will continue to be adamant.

Even after the first three-game losing streak of his tenure at Kentucky, Coach Cal isn't backing down.

"I'm not cracking," Coach Cal said. "This doesn't faze me. I'm not mad at them. They're young. I'm not frustrated."

Calipari might have just watched the No. 24/24 Wildcats (17-8, 6-6 Southeastern Conference) lose in disheartening fashion at Texas A&M (17-8, 6-6 SEC), but he's remaining resolute. He knows his team shares his overriding goal – reaching its potential – so he's not about to back off.

"A big part of it is they have to want stuff to happen," Calipari said. "I believe they do. I believe they're embarrassed by their play. If I didn't—I told them, 'If I want this worse than you want this, please tell me so I can start taking my wife to movies and dinners.' But they want this. They want it for each other. It's just it's a tough deal."

It was certainly tough in Reed Arena on Saturday, as the Aggies thrilled a fired-up home crowd by scoring 59 points and shooting 20 of 30 (66.7 percent) from the field in the second half. That stood in stark contrast to a first half that saw UK close on an 8-0 run to take a four-point lead into halftime.

"We did a really great job in the first half, holding them to only 26 points," said Kevin Knox, who had 18 points. "Then the second half, I don't know. They just came out—I think they shot 70 percent, he said, in the second half. That's crazy. That's a really good number. You can't win any games with teams shooting 70 percent. We just had a lot of defensive lapses, no communication in the second half, gave up some second-chance points, wide-open shots. Next thing you know, we would be down 15."

A&M exploded for a 26-6 run in the first seven-plus minutes of the second half. UK managed to claw back to within eight points in the final minute after trailing by as many as 23, but for most of the second half Shai Gilgeous-Alexander – who finished with 19 points and eight assists – was the only Cat not falling victim to the vicious cycle of self-driven thought and play.

"What it becomes is, why is it happening?" Calipari said of UK's repeated lapses this season. "Again, you're so into how you're playing you can't give that energy to the team. That's what young guys do and I can't seem to get them over that hump. They're more concerned about how they're playing and then when they're concerned they look really bad individually."

That sort of play, combined with an SEC deeper and better than it's been in years is what leads to a three-game skid.

"There's not enough trust there yet," Calipari said. "And it's not just one guy. We got a bunch of guys that, you know, not doing the stuff that we need. Look, this league is unbelievable. It's a heck of a league. I think we're probably—our strength of schedule's probably five or six in the country and I imagine even after this game our RPI is probably 14, 15, 16. And we're—'Kentucky! Cal's gonna go—' No, no. We just gotta get a game where we put two halves together and let the winning take care of itself and we'll go from there."

Twenty minutes in, Calipari thought UK's breakthrough might be in progress against an A&M team playing like the group that was ranked as high as No. 5 in December. Since it didn't, it's back to work, though he does admit the time for urgency is here.

"We still got time," Calipari said. "I've been in this situation a couple different times at Kentucky and you know every team we play is giving us their best shot. So when we get this, we'll bust through, but it's getting old right now. Each week that goes by, it gets harder and harder to get this thing to where you want it to go."

To get that to happen, Calipari knows he needs a leader from among his team to step up to lift his team.

"Right now, I'm not sure we have that guy," Calipari said. "The reason is it's hard to talk when you're not playing well. It's hard to talk when you're saying the guy won't fight until the game's down 14. Then it's hard to be that guy to say anything in those meetings."

It hasn't happened yet, but Calipari is going to keep chipping away until it does.

"I'm not cracking," Calipari said. "I've coached 30 years and all I'm thinking about is how do I get these guys to play two halves the way they played the first half."

'I'm just trying to learn the game of basketball.' UK's Diallo says mastering half-court style takes time.

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb. 14, 2018

Hamidou Diallo was a two-time all-state high school player in New York. He played for the gold medal-winning USA team in the 2016 FIBA Americas U18 Championship. He played for the New York Rens in the Nike-sponsored EYBL.

With that load of accomplishment on his résumé, it sounded odd Tuesday to hear him say, "Now, I'm just trying to learn the game of basketball."

To be more precise, Diallo is re-learning how to play basketball this season. He previously played at a fast tempo, which perfectly suited his undeniable athleticism. But UK opponents this season, as in previous seasons, try to force a slower pace of play.

"I feel we've played a lot of half-court this year," Diallo said. "So I feel like it's just something I'm trying to get much better at. And coming in here, I was just an up-and-down type of player."

Diallo expressed gratitude for how the UK coaches are trying to help him become a better player in a half-court setting. A part of that process will sound familiar to UK fans: Learn to make the easier play rather than a more theatrical maneuver. That adjustment, plus new teammates are part of Diallo's re-education process.

"It's just a different level of basketball, and a different team and different system," he said. "And (opponents) are much better at this level. It's something you're going to have to read, and slow it down at times. It's just different reads in the game I'm still trying to learn, still trying to get better at, and Coach (John Calipari) is trying to help me simplify the game and see the game at different angles and from different spots on the floor."

Kentucky's game at Auburn on Wednesday night might be a temporary release from Diallo's re-education camp. In Southeastern Conference play, Auburn leads the league in scoring (84.1 ppg), three-point shooting accuracy (40.6 percent) and three-point baskets (10.4 per game).

When asked if this suggested a fast-paced game, Diallo said, "Hopefully. I feel we play better like that. Hopefully that's the type of game it is.

"Many teams try to make it a half-court game with us. … That's how they know they have a better chance at beating us. We're just going to have to get better at playing half-court, and get better at forcing the game to be up and down."

Calipari Keeping Steady Hand through Struggles

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Feb. 15, 2018

Fifteen or 20 years ago, John Calipari might have peeled paint off the wall in his postgame press conference.

Today, with his Kentucky team struggling, Calipari is steady-handed.

"I'm old," Calipari said. "I've been through just about everything."

Coach Cal spoke in measured tones after UK let a four-point lead with seven minutes left disappear at Auburn on Wednesday night. Though a 76-66 loss for the Wildcats (17-9, 6-7 Southeastern Conference) against the No. 10/11 Tigers (23-3, 11-2 SEC) was their fourth in a row, the rugged SEC hasn't gotten the better of the Hall of Famer.

"We don't have any room for error and as a coach I gotta keep them going and just get to work and say, 'How do we get better and what do we do to try to turn this around?' " Calipari said. "Good news is I've done this for 30 years. Haven't had one of these for a while. It's probably good for the soul. I wish it was good for someone else's soul, not mine."

Don't mistake Calipari's intact sense of humor for indifference though. His age and experience have made Calipari comfortable in his own skin, regardless what happens the rest of the season, but he knows his players can't say the same. That's why he cares so deeply about what happens in the coming weeks.

"My concern is these kids," Calipari said. "And I'm not worried about record, my record, my whatever you want to say. I'm old now. We get on a run and we go to the Final Four this year, it doesn't change me, but I'll tell you what. It helps these kids. We go the wrong way and we don't get it going it's affecting these kids."

That knowledge is what led Calipari to issue a heartfelt mea culpa on Friday night.

"This season is not going to change anything about me, but my concern is I got a bunch of young kids that at times don't listen, they don't trust," Calipari said. "And I told them last night, I failed them. I haven't built enough trust where when I talk to them, 'I'm going to do what this man says.' "

That failure, however, is neither absolute nor final. The Cats might not have trusted in the way that was needed to close out what would have been a signature win in a raucous Auburn Arena, but they still have time to build it. After all, UK did play well enough for 33 minutes to lead an Auburn team that sits in first place in the SEC and is contending for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Had Hamidou Diallo's corner 3 fallen and put UK up seven rather than rimming out, maybe things would have been different. Instead, Auburn capitalized on defensive lapses, Kevin Knox went quiet after scoring all 19 of his points in the first 27 minutes, and the Cats lost in spite of winning the battle on the boards and outscoring Auburn 36-20 in the paint.

"What you have, again, we get a lead and a guy has a shot and because he hasn't made one he drives it out of bounds baseline," Calipari said. "You have a wide-open shot. Guys like Wenyen (Gabriel), who I think are pretty good shooters, don't make a shot, layup—well, he made some dunks—not a jump shot, not a 3, not a free throw and we have our chance to win the game. We made some dumb, inexperienced plays down the stretch. We made strides."

Strides or not, UK finds itself in the unenviable position of having lost four straight for the first time since 2008-09. As the losses mount, talk of the Cats' NCAA Tournament prospects begins to grow louder. If he wanted to, Calipari could point to UK's top-20 RPI and top-10 strength of schedule, but he is leaving that for others to discuss.

"I got one thought: Let's just try to win the next game," Calipari said. "Just win a game. I really believe if we win a game we'll get going. I've had teams in this kind of mode that we're in, but the league was different that we could go get a league game somewhere and we knew, 'OK, finally.' Well, guess what."

UK's next outing – Alabama on Saturday at Rupp Arena – certainly won't be an easy one. The Crimson Tide have won back-to-back games – including 78-50 shellacking of Tennessee – to surge into a third-place tie in SEC standings, two games ahead of UK.

"Right now we're just focused on our next opponent, which is Alabama," PJ Washington said. "We're just trying to go in and get better every day in practice and just trying to fight 40 minutes. I feel like if we keep doing that we'll eventually get a win."

Kentucky snaps its losing skid and might have found its most dangerous lineup

By: Matt Norlander | CBS Sports | Feb. 17, 2018

The last time a John Calipari-coached team lost five straight games he was 31 years old. It was 1990. Cal was in his infancy as a head coach, trying to build UMass from twigs and pebbles.

Fortunately for Calipari, Kentucky and Big Blue Nation, that infamous five-game losing streak statistic will stay stuck in 1990, as UK on Saturday put up its most well-rounded performance in SEC play this season with an 81-71 win over Alabama. UK's losing streak halts at four games and Kentucky's at-large situation stabilizes for the time being. The Cats are 18-9 and have climbed to level footing (7-7) in the conference.

The Wildcats entered the weekend on the 8 line. A win like this could bump them up a seed, but more importantly than any temporary standing in the seeding hierarchy is how Kentucky got this win. Bottom line: this team was in need of not only a win but an inspiring win with proof in victory that it can get better. The Cats delivered. Eighty-one is the most Kentucky's scored in regulation in conference play this season.

Yes, it was a significant ask of Alabama (17-10, 8-6) to go into Rupp Arena and take a win. The Crimson Tide were not favored to do so. But Kentucky has lost at home this season (Florida and Tennessee had picked off the Cats at Rupp). And Alabama owns wins over Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Auburn, Tennessee and Florida. The Crimson Tide had the only consensus lottery pick on the floor in Collin Sexton.

Alabama was the right opponent at the right time for Kentucky. Good enough to beat the Wildcats but vulnerable enough to provide an opportunity for Kentucky to pounce.

As has sporadically been the case for the Crimson Tide, Sexton was not the team's best player when he needed to be (though he did need to be bandaged up after busting his chin open in the first half). Sexton finished with 12 points on 4-of-11 shooting and fouled out. Alabama's best player was junior Donta Hall, who had 16 and 6 on 7-of-8 shooting.

Alabama's got plenty of youth on its team as well. Youth begets variability, as Kentucky's proved since game one. Alabama didn't have it on Saturday. Kentucky did. It's not a top-20 team, but it would have beaten most top-20 teams in that building with that way it played.

Kentucky, for the first time this season, truly looked like a jelled team that wasn't filled with freshmen. Maybe it's a one-game thing, but if not, it's a big step forward for UK, which three days earlier was outclassed at Auburn. Calipari's team won by double digits after getting teased by Bama to the tune of 15 lead changes and eight ties. When Kentucky needed to play responsibly but also with a sense of urgency, it did.

I haven't seen that this season from UK, not to the level and every-time-down-the-floor consistency that transpired on Saturday. Kentucky had 18 points off forcing 11 turnovers. Five players hit double figures in scoring: P.J. Washington had 16; Kevin Knox scored all 13 of his points in the second half; Quade Green played one of his best games and contributed 12 points; Jarred Vanderbilt scored 11; and Nick Richards had 10 points.

Yet it was Shai Gilgeous-Alexander--

again-- who looked like Kentucky's necessary leader on the floor. The long-armed freshman point guard had six points, four rebounds, four assists, three steals and only one turnover. Two of the steals came down the stretch and cushioned Kentucky's lead. I've argued all season that Kentucky only goes as far as Knox will take them. I still believe that.

But there's no denying that Gilgeous-Alexander has become nearly as valuable as Knox. Whereas Knox's importance almost strictly derives from throttling the offense, Gilgeous-Alexander can spark this team-- or save it-- with timely plays on either end of the floor.

On Saturday, with Gilgeous-Alexander playing as a sidekick in the offense to Green, Kentucky was able to neutralize Alabama's top-10-ranked defense. Calipari deployed Knox, Vanderbilt and Washington with those two for much of the second half and it was when those five were on the floor that Kentucky put its foot down on the Tide. The Wildcats were responsible with the ball, active on the glass (hello: 20 offensive rebounds) and made 21 of their 28 free throws.

Maybe that becomes Calipari's reliable five. Keep an eye on that in UK's road game against Arkansas on Tuesday night.

"We gave away games this year," Calipari told the media afterward. "We have to start taking games from people, which means desperation. We gave some away, now we've gotta take some back."

It's true, and Saturday showed the Cats have some dog in them. Some fight. And the ability to play older than they are and better than they've looked most of the season.

'Desperate,' poised Kentucky finish vs. Alabama was even bigger than victory

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Feb. 17, 2018

LEXINGTON, Ky. — To hear the relieved roar of the Rupp Arena crowd, as if 23,000 people just exorcised a demon together on a rainy Saturday afternoon in Lexington, was to know just how much went right in Kentucky's 81-71 win over Alabama.

The end of a four-game losing streak, unprecedented under coach John Calipari. Leading for 31 minutes after weeks of playing from behind. Clobbering the Crimson Tide 44-27 on the glass. Neutralizing Alabama star Collin Sexton while five Wildcats scored in double figures.

Oh, and pumping the brakes on all that NIT talk and bolstering their NCAA Tournament resume with a fifth victory over an RPI top-50 team. That was all good stuff for Kentucky (18-9, 7-7 SEC), but this was the best stuff:

Leading by 2 points with 5 minutes to go, the Cats did not collapse. They swarmed instead. They grabbed 8 rebounds — 4 offensive — swiped 4 steals, had zero turnovers and outscored Alabama 14-6 to close the game.

For once, nobody had to hold their breath, which meant you could hear the collective exhale Saturday.

"We needed this very bad," said point guard Quade Green, who had 12 points, 4 assists, 1 steal and 0 turnovers off the bench, "so we can start our winning streak."

Kentucky had never even lost three straight in Calipari's first eight seasons, yet here it was trying to fend off the coach's first five-game skid since his UMass days in the early 1990s. He tried to dismiss the significance of that, but it had been hanging over this team like a storm cloud since the Cats shriveled in the final minutes at 10th-ranked Auburn on Wednesday night.

"We had a losing streak?" a grinning Calipari said after it was finally over. "These guys, they are all freshmen [and] they were a little bit scattered now, a little bit rattled. If they looked at me and I was like, 'Oh, it's going to be five and [imitating crying] …' how would they have played today?"

Kevin Knox probably wouldn't have cut loose and scored all 13 of his points after halftime — 11 in a 5-minute span that steadied the Cats when they fell behind with 13:58 remaining. PJ Washington likely wouldn't have shaken off a 4-turnover first half and scored 10 in the second half.

Had Kentucky played tight, there's almost no chance it manages to go the final 11:31 without a turnover.

"They played desperate," Calipari said. "We gave away some games this year [and] we have to start taking games from people, which means desperation. We gave some away and now we've got to take some back. Gotta go get some, and this was a good one."

Alabama coach Avery Johnson used the word desperate, too, as he noted an energy and effort level in the Wildcats that he did not see from his own very fine team. The Crimson Tide (17-10, 8-6) entered the day with five RPI top-25 wins, three in the last month.

"We just went out there and fought like we had nothing to lose," said Jarred Vanderbilt, who delivered 11 points, 9 rebounds and 2 blocks in just 19 minutes off the bench. "We played with desperation, but we didn't put the pressure on ourselves. Honestly, I feel like we needed [the losing streak] — I'm not saying that many losses, but it kind of helped us come back together as a team, trust each other more and play together as a team."

In each of the four consecutive losses before Saturday, there was a moment when Kentucky looked like it might win. Then came a defensive lapse, an offensive drought — or both — and it all fell apart.

Against Alabama, when that moment arrived, the Cats were ready. Freshman guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander used every bit of his 7-foot wingspan to snatch three give-me-that steals in the span of 2 minutes, the last coming with 49 seconds to go, to effectively finish off the Tide.

"I was like, 'We need to get these loose balls, because these are the plays that we lost these last couple games,'" said Vanderbilt, who had a dunk, layup and tip-in in the final 3:15. "So we buckled down, locked up on defense, got steals, made plays and we executed."

And as it was winding down, a joyful noise filled the arena. It was the long-lost sound of having not left the outcome to chance — of finally taking a victory rather than giving one away.

Is Jarred Vanderbilt the catalyst Kentucky basketball needs?

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb. 17, 2018

On a team that often struggles offensively, that at times suffers long stretches when it needs someone to just put the ball in the basket, Jarred Vanderbilt can't make a shot. Not a one. Not a one-footer. Not a two-footer. It doesn't matter.

"I've never really missed that many in my life," the Kentucky freshman said Saturday, smiling but shaking his head. "I think I'm No. 1 in the nation in shots missed inside five feet."

And yet the 6-foot-9 forward from Houston, absent the first 17 games of this 2017-18 season thanks to an injured foot, just might be the key that finally turns over Kentucky's engine and points these Cats in the right direction.

Take Saturday, otherwise known as Desperation Day, in Rupp Arena. With Big Blue Nation pushed into panic mode with their Cats mired in a four-game losing streak, John Calipari's young team finally hopped up off the mat to knock off visiting Alabama 81-71 to improve to 18-9 overall and 7-7 in the Southeastern Conference in a must-win affair.

Vanderbilt had a little something to do with stopping the skid. He scored 11 points and grabbed nine rebounds, including five

off the offensive boards as Kentucky crushed the Crimson Tide on the glass 44-27 to win the second-chance points battle 20-11.

"Twenty offensive rebounds," was what Avery Johnson listed as the difference in the game, then the Alabama coach went on to say that the Tide staff had placed a couple of stars by Vanderbilt's name in the scouting report.

"You'll say, 'Coach did you really have stars by his name?' I know everybody talks about (Kevin) Knox and (Shai Gilgeous-) Alexander, but in games like this you need a utility guy."

So far, that is Vanderbilt. He plays with energy. He can defend. He can handle the ball. He can pass the ball. And boy can he rebound the ball — 11 boards in 11 minutes during UK's win at West Virginia; 10 in 16 minutes during the Cats' loss at Missouri; 10 in 21 minutes on Wednesday night when UK came up short at Auburn.

After going 4-for-10 from the floor on Saturday — two of his baskets being putbacks and another a jam off a thread-the-needle delivery from Quade Green — Vanderbilt has made just 17 of 50 shots on the season for 34 percent.

That's led Calipari to compare Vanderbilt to Dennis Rodman, something Vanderbilt doesn't seem all that crazy about. Besides, Green sees a better comparison.

"I think Jarred's more like Lamar Odom," said the point guard from Philadelphia. "He can pass the ball."

Yes, this is a team that can use some scoring, but it could also use some passing and rebounding. The Cats went through a long stretch of games in which the team assists number languished in the single digits. And though this is not a bad rebounding team, it hasn't compared to previous Calipari collections that bashed opponents on the boards.

And really, coming down the stretch, especially for a young team that has struggled and hopes to find itself before the madness of March begins, that team needs to do one thing well, really well, exceptionally well.

Given Kentucky's deficiencies in other areas, maybe rebounding is that thing. Maybe it's Nick Richards and PJ Washington and Wenyen Gabriel and Vanderbilt all crashing the glass to give the Cats second and sometimes third opportunities. After all, a team that misses so many shots needs all the shots it can get.

As the late addition, Vanderbilt could be the key to that. He has looked a little more comfortable nearly every time out. Saturday was his 10th game and it was also his best all-around game. Except for the shots, of course. But maybe the shot-making can wait.

"(Until then) I just need to do all the little stuff," he said. "And just imagine late in the season when those shots start falling and we start coming together, it will be even better for our team."

'Dangerous' and 'desperate' — that's how Avery Johnson describes this Kentucky team

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb. 17, 2018

All that hand-wringing over this Kentucky basketball team that's been going on in the commonwealth for most the season?

Alabama Coach Avery Johnson isn't hearing it. Especially after his Alabama team came into Rupp Arena on Saturday placed third in a tough Southeastern Conference and left Lexington with an 81-71 loss.

These Wildcats can still make a run. And they still have time to put it all together.

"They are still a dangerous team, having the depth and the length and size that they have on their team," Johnson said of these Cats, who had been losers of four straight going into Saturday. "They may have four losses, but they weren't against a YMCA team. They played Missouri, Tennessee, A&M, Auburn. Pretty good teams, right?"

Four likely NCAA Tournament teams, in fact. As is Alabama.

Johnson said the Cats played like "a really hungry basketball team" and brought "lots of energy."

"That's going to make Cal happy right there — when he hears that," said UK point guard Quade Green with a huge grin, knowing those descriptors haven't been used often this season. "That's going to make him really happy."

Johnson also used another word to describe these Wildcats on this Saturday: "Desperate."

The skid going into this weekend was UK's worst since the final season under Billy Gillispie nine years ago. It was John Calipari's longest as a head coach in 13 years, when one of his Memphis teams did it.

The players themselves?

"I don't think anybody in the locker room ever lost four games in a row in their life," Green said. "Through AAU, high school — so this was really hard on all of us. And we had to step it up."

Not only did they step up, they delivered a team effort. The type of effort that wins postseason games.

All eight UK players who spent more than five minutes on the court Saturday finished with at least five points and at least four rebounds or four assists. Five Wildcats scored in double figures, including Jarred Vanderbilt, who did it for the first time in his 10 games at UK.

Vanderbilt's description of the postgame locker room: "Very exciting. Relief — you know what I'm saying? We had lost four in a row," he said, as if it had to be repeated.

There probably wasn't anyone wearing blue and white in Rupp Arena unaware of the skid.

There had been talk all week of missing the NCAA Tournament. With a 6-7 record in the SEC and more tough games left, it seemed like a realistic possibility.

"I'm not listening to them," Calipari said Saturday. "What, you just want to know who won or lost? Are you seeing that the team is getting better?"

This UK team (now 18-9 and 7-7 in the SEC) is getting better, according to its coach. And this team can be a formidable one in March, according to the coach they beat Saturday afternoon.

Those eight players that played more than five minutes against Alabama included seven freshmen and one sophomore, as Calipari is quick to remind. The SEC is much better this season than in years past, as Calipari and Johnson both said again Saturday. And UK went into the day with the toughest strength of schedule in the country this season, according to the RPI.

"We should have the same respect that all these other leagues are getting with this league this year," Calipari said. "Wait a minute, you lost four in a row; you wanted to jump off a bridge. I know, but think about who we lost to. ... I mean, if we'd have won one, I probably would have been surprised."

No one likes to lose, but could losing four straight have actually helped this young bunch?

"I felt like everybody got in the gym either early in the morning or stayed late after practice or before practice — just working on their games," said PJ Washington. "It starts with every player, and every player's been getting better."

"I feel like we definitely came together more," Vanderbilt said. "We started trusting each other more, and we started realizing that this is almost the end of the season, so, we need to make some changes now. Before it's too late."

It's not too late, as other groups of youngsters have shown in the Calipari era.

Maybe getting hit in the mouth a time or four is exactly what this team needed.

Whatever they learned about themselves, they did find out they don't like losing basketball games. Green said he figured no one on the team had ever lost four in a row. Washington grinned when asked if it

had ever happened to him.

"Not ever," he said. "I've always won games wherever I've been. So this is new for me. And I'm just glad we're not losing anymore."

John Wall's returning to UK to complete his degree. 'I promised my dad that.'

By: Candace Buckner | Washington Post | Feb. 19, 2018

John Wall plans to return to college.

Over the NBA All-Star Weekend, Wall shared his summer plans to return to the University of Kentucky to pursue his bachelor's degree. Although Wall has cemented himself in the league as a five-time all-star, he wants to prepare for life after basketball.

"I'm going back to school this summer to get my business degree," Wall revealed. "That's what I'm focusing on. I promised my dad that."

Wall's father died when his son was 8 years old. In 2010, Wall left Kentucky as a one-and-done player and was drafted the top overall pick by the Washington Wizards.

Wall, 27, does not yet know what he'll do with a business degree but wants to express himself off the court.

When Fox News anchor Laura Ingraham recently admonished Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James for his political opinion, advising him to "shut up and dribble," NBA players fired back. James posted on his Instagram page a photo with the message, "I Am More Than An Athlete."

Wall agreed with the sentiment, understanding the importance of being multidimensional.

"When our career is over, when we retire and the basketball stops bouncing, we still have the find something else to do," Wall said. "Whether you want to be a general manager, a doctor, a businessman, whatever, you have to believe on everything you stand on. We're more than athletes and the stuff that's going on in our society and in this world, we have to speak on it. I think we have the right to say whatever we want."

"Inside the Madness" goes behind Kentucky's wins and losses

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb. 19, 2018

Many sports documentaries follow a team through a championship season, chronicling its many triumphs. The docu-series on this year's Kentucky basketball team has the potential to offer something a little different, a very young collection of players fighting through the struggles of their freshman season.

"Sure. Absolutely," said executive producer Jason Sciavicco last week. "I think the kind of up and down of the season leads to the stories that we're going to tell this year. I think you tell one story if the team is 38-0 and beating teams by 15-20 points. I think that story is something that could be entertaining. But I think the chance that the audience has to see these kids grow up and see the struggles and the ups and downs and look that's life, right? Who lives a life where everything is perfect? There's nobody that I know that does it."

"Inside the Madness" debuted last Saturday on the Facebook Watch streaming platform. The first episode centered on the Cats' November trip to play Monmouth at Madison Square Garden.

A production company of 12 to 14 people with two to three cameras every day have been with the team since November, said Sciavicco, who had previously produced similar type series, mainly on college football. Another 12 to 15 people are in California putting together post-production.

Why Kentucky?

"I just think the tradition and the history of Kentucky and how big of a program it is and obviously with John Calipari being there, the great coach he is and character he is, he's somebody obviously that's not afraid to speak his mind and he's very forthcoming," Sciavicco said. "He doesn't hide anything. He's one of those guys he tells you how he feels. You don't even really have to pry or ask him, he's going to be forward with what he's thinking. So I think with all those things, Kentucky was just a great fit for what we were looking to do."

What they are looking to do is something real and raw with a behind-the-scenes feel. The first episode, for example, features point guard Quade Green face-timing with his family back home. It also shows Queens native Hamidou Diallo, before his first game at The Garden in New York, getting a haircut from his regular barber.

"The great thing about our show, we don't script anything," Sciavicco said. "There's nothing that's planned. We're a fly on the wall and we document things as they're happening and we have to go with the flow. Stories come and go, and a story you think may be a big story doesn't end up being as big but that kind of idea may take you to another one and another player, another coach, something that happens during the season."

Any surprises so far?

"I don't know if surprised is the right word, but I am even more impressed with Coach Cal than I was before this," he said. "I think he probably doesn't get the credit that he deserves for what he does with these young players. He's not only coaching but he's teaching. And he's not only teaching these guys how to play basketball, but he's teaching these guys how to become men."

Asked about having cameras around all the time, Calipari said, "We just ignore them like they're not there."

After all, he has a young team to coach, one that has seen its share of wins and losses this season. In fact, episode two of "Inside the Madness" centers on UK's December trip to New Orleans, which ended in a loss to UCLA.

"There's been ups and downs and these kids are learning and they're coming closer and closer together," Sciavicco said. Probably now more than ever, even coach Cal has said you see moments even in losses where this team could be really good and really special. And when they finally come together, which we all hope is for that March run they could be a really talented, special team."

Calipari finally hits on a lineup that gives Kentucky basketball a shot to win

By: Fletcher Page | Courier Journal | Feb. 20, 2018

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Kevin Knox, PJ Washington and Jarred Vanderbilt each tried to answer a reporter's question all at the same time.

The trio of Kentucky basketball freshmen sat together Tuesday in Bud Walton Arena for a postgame press conference for the first time this season after the Wildcats thumped Arkansas 87-72.

Through interruptions and laughter, they found their way, speaking up about defensive adjustments, fighting for rebounds and the importance of confidence.

"There's experiences they've got to live that I can't talk them through," Kentucky coach John Calipari said later. "When you're playing all freshmen — I'll make that statement again: all freshmen — there's experiences that they have to go through."

The Wildcats (19-9, 8-7 Southeastern Conference) dominated Arkansas on the boards (46 to 29), effectively guarded the 3-point line in the second half (the Razorbacks hit just 1-for-7) and finished the final 12:23 on a 26-11 run to win in a landslide after trailing by double digits in the first half.

Positive things happened when Knox,

Washington and Vanderbilt were on the court together, particularly when joined by Quade Green and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. That five accounted for 77 of Kentucky's points (89 percent of the scoring) and 40 of its rebounds (87 percent).

Finally, with February nearing its end, Calipari has assembled a lineup that doesn't feel forced. Instead, this is a group of five with an upside that appears stronger than its flaws.

"It's that time of year," Calipari said. "I've just got to ride with the guys that are getting it done."

The goal, according to Calipari, is for Green, Knox and Gilgeous-Alexander to shoot and score, with Washington and Vanderbilt crashing the boards and wreaking havoc defensively with their length and — though the results are inconsistent — versatility to man up guards and forwards.

"One of our issues was we weren't scoring the ball," Calipari said. "... Unless we hold teams to 32 points we can't win. So let's look at an offensive team and let's see if we can get them to guard a little bit. Just guard somebody, and I think we're getting better."

Add in sophomore Wenyen Gabriel, who offers energy and effort in rebounding and spot-up 3-point shooting, and Kentucky has a versatile core of six to mix and match.

"We feel like we can all guard the one through five," Washington said. "We try to do a good job. When they screen we try to switch and also on dribble handoffs we try to switch too. We call out rebounds so it's great to have us five out there on defense."

The recent trend projects the length and versatile lineups to continue to get more run.

Starters Hamidou Diallo and Nick Richards combined for only three points in 17 minutes played against Arkansas as the deluge of 6-foot-9-inch forwards billed as "positionless" players by Calipari for much of the preseason earned the bulk of the action.

Diallo hasn't played more than 20 minutes in any of the past five games and has reached double figures in scoring only twice in the past 11 games. Calipari says he won't give up on the freshman guard, but he's opted for two point guards, Green and Gilgeous-Alexander, on the court together more often.

"After the game, I told Hami, 'Hami, we need you, so stay with it. I had to coach to win this game; stay with it. Everybody in here believes in you,'" Calipari said. "The team hugged him and clapped: 'We need you, Hami!' But you gotta just focus on how hard you're working and your attitude about getting better and we're with you. But again, I gotta coach the game to win, and I thought Quade and Shai were good out there."

Richards has been hit and miss, and his seven minutes of action Tuesday marked the second-fewest minutes he's spent on the court in a game this season.

"What I'm doing is: If a guy is playing (well) now, he's staying in as long as he can," Calipari said. "'Please sub yourself and I'll get you back in,' and I'll ride the guys who are playing well."

Here's who Calipari leaned on Tuesday:

Gilgeous-Alexander played 39 minutes; Knox, 38; Green, 34; and Washington, 31. Vanderbilt, who returned from a foot injury a month ago, scored 11 points and grabbed nine rebounds in 19 minutes.

Expect his minutes to increase moving forward.

"Each game I've gotten more confident," Vanderbilt said. "Just kinda getting into the flow of the game and just letting the game come to me. Each game I gain more experience and gain more confidence as well."

Arkansas coach Mike Anderson rattled off the challenges of facing such length and versatility. Shooting 3-pointers and fighting for rebounds isn't easy against lineups featuring as many as four players each with a 7-foot wingspan.

"They're athletic, they're long and they're figuring it out," Anderson said.

Figuring it out. Finding their way.

Still, Kentucky doesn't have a consistent, elite talent to carry production on an every-game basis. And there's no outspoken veteran to provide strong leadership, either.

Those were obvious knocks against this roster during the four-game losing streak — the longest skid of the Calipari era — earlier this month.

The latest lineup isn't perfect (individual inconsistency is glaring), but it does give the Wildcats a shot to win now, with upside to reach for in order to keep winning later.

"We're starting to figure it out, and especially me," Calipari said. "... About 10 days ago, I had a meeting and gave them their roles. 'This is your role on this team. Can you do it? Because if you can't, I can't play you. And if you need to do more, then I'm not playing you. This is your role.' And I went around the room and they were all committed. We committed to this."

Cats starting to roll as Cal's Coaching Takes Root

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Feb. 25, 2018

Friday felt entirely different for John Calipari.

Compared with just a couple weeks ago, it felt as if a weight had been lifted from his shoulders. Coach Cal had become used to having to grind through pretty much every practice, but he breezed through Friday's.

It's no mystery why.

"Yesterday in practice, what I said to them, at one point I stopped them and I said, 'The reason I'm so relaxed and having fun coaching you: I'm not fighting everybody,' " Calipari said. "It was only a month ago, three weeks ago half the team, it was a fight to get them to play how we were trying to get them to play."

The Kentucky Wildcats are spending a lot more time battling their opponents than their coach these days, which has never been more true than on Saturday.

UK claimed its third straight double-digit victory against Missouri, downing the Tigers 87-66 in Rupp Arena to avenge a loss to the Tigers on Feb. 3. The Cats moved to 20-9 (9-7 Southeastern Conference) and had their largest margin of victory since a 90-61 shellacking of rival Louisville on Dec. 29 by defeating the Tigers (18-11, 8-8 SEC).

"They gave us a good one at their place, so we just wanted to make sure that we came out with aggression, came out with energy," said Kevin Knox, who scored 21 points. "The crowd was great tonight. We just wanted to make sure we gave the payback for what they did to us at home."

The payback was nice, but Coach Cal enjoyed the way his team played much more. UK took advantage of open-floor opportunities early and hit 10-of-16 3-pointers to build a big lead, then the Cats were able to preserve that lead by transitioning into a more half-court style late.

"What you're seeing is a team that can play fast and a team that can grind it out," Calipari said. "You're seeing when I put Jarred (Vanderbilt) and PJ (Washington) in there, a team that can really, really rebound. Our assist-to-turnover ratio, which was under water now is going the right way. We've kind of figured out Quade (Green) and Shai (Gilgeous-Alexander), and I gave Hami (Diallo) a hug in front of the team."

The hug was well earned, as Diallo played his best game in a long while in scoring 11 points and adding two assists and two rebounds. He hit all three of his 3-point tries, the first coming less than four minutes into the game and drawing a big reaction from his teammates, his coach and fans alike.

"It was great," Diallo said. "It was great knowing that the team is here for me and the crowd was here for me as well. So it was just great having everybody have my

back and hopefully I can play the same way I did next game."

Calipari having Diallo's back is hardly a new thing. Though the 6-foot-5 freshman's minutes declined in recent weeks, Coach Cal's support never wavered.

"I know he was supporting me no matter what," Diallo said. "That's why I chose to come here. He was going to be on me no matter what and he was going to protect me no matter what was going on."

Fans seemed to follow Calipari's lead in that. As Diallo failed to reach double figures in six of seven games, the crowd in Rupp looked for every opportunity to pick him up. Shots, however, just kept finding a way not to fall.

Until Saturday.

"I love the fact that our fans gave Hami a standing ovation," Calipari said. "That's what fans should do. Instead of being down on a kid—that's someone's son. That's someone's child. And if it were their child, how would you want them to be treated? And you should see the smile on his face in there. And the players love it. They knew he was struggling."

The way Diallo's teammates lifted him up is a mark of a team that has embraced the all-for-one mentality Calipari has been trying to cultivate for so long. After months of fits, starts and plenty of frustration for Coach Cal, the Cats are getting it.

"I feel like we're playing well together and we're finally noticing that we need each other," Diallo said. "That's the biggest thing, having a group of guys that we all love and care about each other. That's really what we've been identifying these last couple weeks, how much we care about each other and how much we all need each other."

It's all about trust. It always has been.

"This team is beginning to know that we've got to do this together," Calipari said. "We've got to be about each other."

What's next for college hoops? It could be Kentucky after third straight win

By: Eric Crawford | WDRB | Feb. 25, 2018

While the rest of college basketball is biting its fingernails, John Calipari appears to be sharpening his weapons.

As in, a dialed-in Kevin Knox. A steadily awakening Jarred Vanderbilt. A fast-focusing Quade Green.

The University of Kentucky basketball team scored its third straight impressive win – coming off of four straight losses – subduing Missouri 87-66 in Rupp Arena in a game that featured less drama than the Saturday morning headlines.

A Kentucky team that has been in search of itself for much of the season appears to be making some discoveries. It may not make 10 of 16 threes every night-- like it did Saturday night-- but it is doing everything else better, too.

"Right before your eyes, we're becoming a better basketball team," Calipari said. "It wore me out. But yesterday in practice, what I said, at one point . . . the reason I'm so relaxed and having fun coaching you, I'm not fighting everybody. It was only a month ago, three weeks ago half the team, it was a fight to get them to play how we were trying to get them to play. But the other side of it is it took us a while to figure out the team, and figure out Kevin Knox, and how we were going to play Jarred and what we were going to do, and Jarred joining us mid season made it hard."

The renaissance begins with Vanderbilt, who grabbed 14 rebounds in 26 minutes on the court and who has averaged 19 rebounds per 20 minutes since joining the team a dozen games ago. Missouri missed 31 shots on Saturday. Vanderbilt rebounded nearly one-third of those. Missouri coach Cuonzo Martin said Vanderbilt and P.J. Washington change the personality of Kentucky's team. Nick Ward of Michigan State leads the nation in offensive rebound percentage at 19.2. Vanderbilt hasn't played enough games to be eligible to lead national statistic categories, but his percentage is 23.1.

"I think it's safe to say I haven't seen an offensive rebounder like (Vanderbilt) all season," Martin said. "I'd have to go back and check to be specific but, I don't think I've seen a guy that attacks the glass like he did. He has talent without a question. He may have had four fouls or fouled out when he played at our place but he's the guy who I remembered after the game. Just the way he attacked. He was just getting back into the groove of things so I can only imagine the level of play he'd be if he'd been here all season and played every game. With that size and athleticism he makes it hard on you. . . . He and Washington I thought played particularly well. We never could match their toughness level."

This is not a team whose calling card in any way could be considered "toughness" just three weeks ago.

"Sometimes you've got to put different guys on the floor," Calipari said. "Dudes that are out there playing the most minutes are the toughest guys we have."

Knox continues to give Kentucky more consistency. After being quickly cleared from the cloud of a Yahoo! Sports report that said discovery documents in the ongoing college basketball corruption case showed that he or his parents had a meal with a representative of Andy Miller's sports agency before his college career, Knox stayed focused and scored a controlled 21 points in 23 minutes against Missouri.

"With everything going on it has been a good week, just been blocking everything out," Knox said. "I had two good days of practice before this game. . . . That is just what Cal trained me for and my dad trained me for in life, just to block everything out, all the negative stuff, and just be able to play my game. Tonight, like I said, I had two good games of practice and I wasn't really focused on anything else that was going on."

Beyond that, Hamidou Diallo broke out of a slump, making his first three-pointer to spark an 12-point effort.

"I gave Hami a hug in front of the team. They gave him a standing ovation," Calipari said. "You know, it's been hard, and I wasn't going to kick him to the curb. I wasn't going to throw him under the bus. It's been hard."

Kentucky's defense bothered Missouri into a couple of lengthy first-half droughts and held the Tigers to 38 percent shooting. The Wildcats used Vanderbilt's boards to beat Missouri 36-32 on the glass.

Green finished with 12 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander 12 and P.J. Washington 12.

And pretty dramatically, a Kentucky team that couldn't seem to beat anybody in conference play a couple of weeks ago now is putting away decent teams with no trouble.

What does it mean?

It means this incredibly young team appears to be playing its best basketball as March approaches.

Where have you heard that before?

Hamidou Diallo escapes from 'rabbit hole'

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Feb. 25, 2018

It's not often a 4-for-10 night from the field represents a standout performance for one of Kentucky basketball's star freshman.

For Hamidou Diallo against Missouri, though, that line seemed almost all-star worthy.

"This path is all about a roller coaster," Diallo said. "Every game is not going to be great. What I went through was a bunch of bad games, and seeing stuff go in tonight was really big for me."

Diallo entered UK's 87-66 win over Missouri having scored in double figures just once in his previous seven games. Four times in that stretch he scored fewer than five points. In UK's win over Arkansas Tuesday, he scored two points, missing his only field-goal attempt, in a season-low 10 minutes on the court.

Despite the recent struggles, Diallo has remained in John Calipari's starting lineup throughout the season.

That loyalty finally paid off Saturday when he hit a 3-pointer just less than four minutes into the game to tie the score at five. With 1:31 left in the first half, he added a highlight-reel fastbreak dunk then splashed in another 3 with just before halftime to stretch UK's lead to 12 points.

"I don't remember my last dunk other than that one," Diallo said with a smile of relief after the win.

Diallo hit just 1 of 4 shots in the second half to finish at 4 for 10 for the game, but he made all three of his 3-point attempts, marking his first game with multiple 3s since Dec. 16 against Virginia Tech. He recorded two assists, ending a six-game drought without one.

"I wasn't going to kick him to the curb," Calipari said. "I wasn't going to throw him under the bus. It's been hard...I told the team, 90 percent of my time has been figuring out how do I get this kid going, but I've got to win games."

Diallo's efforts were awarded several loud roars from fans at Rupp Arena and a standing ovation from his teammates in the locker room after the win.

"He's out that rabbit hole he was in," freshman point guard Quade Green said. "Now he's back to Hami...We need him."

During his struggles, Diallo turned to NBA point guard Isaiah Thomas for inspiration.

Thomas has been traded twice in the last year – first from the Boston Celtics to the Cleveland Cavaliers in August and later from the Cavs to the Los Angeles Lakers at the trade deadline – and battled an injury that prevented him from even making his Cleveland debut until January.

"I been thru hell and back this past year but only thing I've always known was to keep it pushing and keep going," Thomas recently tweeted. "Only thing that can stop YOU is YOU no matter what they throw at you."

Diallo took the message to heart.

"He's going through a roller coaster, and just seeing him going through that and knowing what I was going through it just motivated me," Diallo said.

Calipari's loyalty was key too.

"That's why I chose to come here," Diallo said. "A bunch of people thought I should have been benched. I mean, at one point I thought I should have been benched. He just kept starting me, kept believing in me."

The start of Diallo's struggles coincided with Kentucky's four-game losing streak earlier this month, but his teammates had begun to turn the corner even as he showed few signs of returning to the form that saw him score in double figures in seven consecutive games at one point this season.

As the Wildcats snapped the losing streak with wins over Alabama and Arkansas, Diallo's minutes continued to decrease.

It was likely no coincidence though the Wildcats recorded their most lopsided victory of SEC play against Missouri as Diallo once again contributed to the performance.

Now a productive Diallo is one more reason for Calipari and fans to get excited about the team's potential as it nears postseason play.

"Everybody in their career, they're going to have to face adversity," Diallo said. "You can't be the type of player you want to be if you can't make it through adversity. Hopefully I'm only going up from here. That's what I'm hoping, and that's what I'm going to keep training my mind to think."

For Kentucky, better offense is leading to much better basketball

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb. 25, 2018

After Kentucky's 87-66 shutdown of Missouri on Saturday night in Rupp Arena, the talk among the collective Cats made available for postgame interviews was that the team's late-season pivot revolved around a players' only meeting.

Seems that when UK's losing streak spread to four, the players gathered in their pit of misery, aired grievances, offered opinions, shared inspiration and — voilà — an organic three-game win streak rose from the ashes.

OK, whatever you think works. On the floor, the Big Blue turnaround can be better explained by a simple and age-old hoops adage: Everything looks better when the ball goes through the hoop.

This had been a bad offensive basketball team. Or at least by John Calipari's standards, this had been a bad offensive basketball team. Its shooting percentage was mediocre, at best. It struggled to make three-pointers. It was so-so at the foul line and it committed too many careless turnovers. Most of the season, UK's offensive efficiency ranking lingered in the 50s.

As Calipari noted Saturday night, when it comes to point production, this was often a team stuck in the 60s. And unless you are Tony Bennett and Virginia, the 60s won't get it done in today's basketball. Certainly not when March Madness commences.

Then, abruptly, surprisingly, after averaging 64.7 points per game in that four-game skid, UK scored 81 in a 10-point win over Alabama. Then the Cats exploded for 87 points in a 15-point road win at Arkansas. Saturday, Calipari's club matched that point total in the 21-point mauling of Missouri.

In that 69-60 loss at Mizzou three weeks ago, Kentucky was an ice-cold 2-for-20 from the dark woods of three-point land. In the friendly confines of Rupp Arena on Saturday, the Cats went 10 of 16 from three, including a blistering 8-for-10 in the first half. No wonder UK averaged 1.353 points per possession, its highest mark in the category since a 1.402 against Texas A&M on Jan. 3 of last season. That's right, last season.

So what gives? Why the change? Why, as Calipari insisted Saturday, are guys who shoot great in practice only to throw up airballs in games now replicating their shots when the lights come on?

There are probably multiple items on the click list, but let's start with Jarred Vanderbilt. The 6-foot-9 freshman isn't a great shooter, but he's the live wire this team needed. Vanderbilt keeps possessions alive with his offensive rebounds — a career-high 15 total rebounds Saturday — his tip-outs, his relentless energy. Surely his teammates feed off that juice.

As important as it was to get Vanderbilt back from his foot injury, don't overlook the importance of Quade Green's return from a back problem. Green might struggle some on the defensive end, but the Philadelphia freshman can shoot. And Calipari's willingness to play Green and fellow freshman Shai Gilgeous-Alexander together has lightened Gilgeous-Alexander's ball-handling load. As a result, turnovers have decreased. Saturday, UK committed just nine, compared to 17 assists. That was the highest assist-to-turnover ratio of the season.

That last stat appears to add numerical backing to the argument that the chemistry is better. Maybe that players-only meeting played into that as well. Previously, there were whispers you'd have a hard time getting this group to be at the same place at the same time long enough to have a meeting. The clock is ticking. Better together.

Biggest question: Can the Cats keep this up? Ole Miss, tied for last place in the SEC, arrives for UK's home finale on Wednesday night. Then the regular-season ends with a Saturday road trip to Florida, where the Ga-

tors could shoot Dramamine commercials considering all their ups and downs.

"We're just having fun," said Green on Saturday. "Everybody's smiling, chest-bumping, having a good time. We're winning, man."

Yes, they are. Three straight and counting. Better offense just leads to better basketball.

74 points in 24 minutes? These five UK players are putting up crazy numbers

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb. 26, 2018

Anyone who watched the last three UK basketball games — and the four games before those — would be hard-pressed to disagree with what John Calipari said following the Cats' resounding 87-66 win over Missouri on Saturday night.

"Right before your eyes," the coach said, "we're becoming a better basketball team."

These Cats are doing just that, following up the first four-game losing streak of Calipari's nine-year tenure in Lexington with a trio of impressive, double-digit victories over Alabama, Arkansas and Mizzou — three teams projected to be in the NCAA Tournament field.

There are many reasons for the turnaround, but one that just about everyone has noticed by now is Calipari's all-freshman lineup of Quade Green, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Kevin Knox, Jarred Vanderbilt and PJ Washington.

"Sometimes you've got to put different guys on the floor," Calipari said Saturday night. "Dudes that are out there playing the most minutes are the toughest guys we have. They told me after Arkansas, 'Your bench scored 36 points.' Yeah, because three of my best players are coming off the bench. We're going to score a lot of points."

It was actually 38 points delivered by the UK bench against Arkansas. That group included Green, Washington and Vanderbilt.

The offensive numbers those three freshmen, Knox and Gilgeous-Alexander have put up while on the floor together over the last three games have been mind-boggling.

In the three victories over Alabama, Arkansas and Missouri, that group of five players has shared the court for a total of 23 minutes and 57 seconds, barely more than one half of basketball.

In that 23 minutes and 57 seconds, the freshman five have scored a whopping 74 points, outscored their opponents by a total of 28 points, outrebounded their opponents 28-12, and committed just four turnovers. Impressive stuff.

The scoring total itself is astounding. Extrapolated over a full 40-minute game, it would be 124 points.

The group of five made its first major contribution toward the end of the Alabama game, turning a 59-58 deficit into a 64-61 lead in a span of a little over a minute. With 3:35 left and UK holding onto a 69-67 lead, Green, Gilgeous-Alexander, Knox, Vanderbilt and Washington shared the floor for an 11-4 run that put the Tide away and snapped the Cats' four-game skid.

The happy times seemed short-lived three days later.

Kentucky was in a 9-0 hole at Arkansas when the same five Cats found themselves on the court together for the first time that night. They traded baskets with the Hogs over the next few minutes and broke up down 17-8, still trailing by nine points but at least on the scoreboard. The score was the same 35 seconds later when Calipari made a substitution to get the five together again. This time, they outscored Arkansas 7-0 over a span of 1 minute and 53 seconds to close within two and make it a game again.

No great runs were needed against Missouri on Saturday night — the Cats won by 21 points, after all — but these five players were still impressive when together, outscoring the Tigers 25-17, outrebounding them 7-2, committing just one turnover and allowing zero second-chance opportunities in 6 minutes and 24 seconds as a unit.

"What happens when that's your team and you can trust each other? You can risk more," Calipari said. "The more you can risk, the better you're going to be, especially turning people over, getting some breakouts and getting some free baskets. But no one will risk if they think they're on the court by themselves."

Calipari and his players also know that — however well these five freshmen are playing — UK will need more for another deep run in the NCAA Tournament.

Recent developments indicate the good play might be contagious.

Wenyen Gabriel, who has started the past four games for UK but hasn't played more than 18 minutes in any of the three victories, was nonetheless crucial to the Cats' success down the stretch against Arkansas.

The energetic sophomore played alongside four of the five aforementioned freshmen during three separate stretches in the final 12:37 of that game. Kentucky outscored Arkansas by 11 points during those three stretches, and the Cats ended up with an 87-72 victory. Gabriel didn't leave the court for the final 4:42.

Freshman Hamidou Diallo — mired in a terrible slump going into Saturday night's game against Missouri — scored 11 points (including going 3-for-3 from three-point range) and played 25 minutes against the Tigers, his most court time in eight games.

"I gave Hami a hug in front of the team," Calipari said afterward. "They gave him a standing ovation. You know, it's been hard, and I wasn't going to kick him to the curb. I wasn't going to throw him under the bus."

Calipari said he's been in his office at the Joe Craft Center at 11 o'clock at night in recent weeks, and, "I look out and he's out there shooting. I feel so good that I can stick with him."

Nick Richards, who has started all 29 of UK's games at center but is seeing his playing time diminish, will be needed down the stretch as well.

"Yeah, he's important," Calipari said after Richards played a scoreless nine minutes Saturday. "He and Sacha (Killeya-Jones) both. … You put one in and then you try the other, and whoever has it going you can go with him. Because we're going to play some teams that have a guy that they can guard better than Jarred or PJ because of size. Or Wenyen, because of physique."

A players-only meeting helped Kentucky basketball regain its winning way

By: Fletcher Page | Courier Journal | Feb. 26, 2018

Hamidou Diallo had struggled for weeks and Wenyen Gabriel was surging to the starting lineup when the two agreed to spark necessary changes to their Kentucky basketball team.

Individual successes and failures had to come second. The collective was sinking.

So, Diallo and Gabriel organized a players-only meeting the day after the Wildcats' 10-point loss at Auburn, their fourth stumble in a row. They didn't tell coach John Calipari or any of the assistants. After a brief walk-through practice, every player walked into the locker room for an extensive talk.

"We just settled everything," freshman Kevin Knox said of the meeting.

"Just getting everybody together on the offensive end and on the defensive end."

Since then, Kentucky (20-9, 9-7 Southeastern Conference) has won three-straight games in impressive fashion. The meeting among the collective coincided with Calipari speaking with each individual.

"I had a meeting and gave them their roles," Calipari said. "'This is your role on

this team. Can you do it? Because if you can't, I can't play you. And if you need to do more, then I'm not playing you. This is your role.' And I went around the room and they were all committed. We committed to this."

Kentucky scored at least 80 points in each of the past three victories after reaching that mark only once before (in an overtime win against Vanderbilt) in conference play.

During the winning streak, the Wildcats drastically improved long range shooting (making 45.8 percent) and crashed the offensive boards (averaging 16 offensive rebounds) to create second-chance opportunities. And balance has been better: Five Wildcats scored in double figures against Alabama and Arkansas and six reached at least 10 points versus Missouri.

"In March you've got to be able to score more than 60," Calipari said. "There was a time in this season we were — 62 was a big number, 63. I kept telling these guys you can't win in that tournament. You've got to be able to get 75, 80 on the board against a good team because they may get the same on you because they're a good team. We're starting to play and figure it out."

The Wildcats may not be consistently lock-down defensively, but they do feature elite aspects on that end of the floor. Opponents are shooting just 29.3 percent from deep, giving Kentucky the second-best long-range defense in the country. Kentucky also ranks in the top 25 nationally in defensive efficiency (96.1; the national average is 105.9), opponents effective field goal percentage (47.1 percent) and blocked-shots percentage (14.5 percent).

"We just needed better defense," he said. "Transition defense was one of the biggest things."

And the emergence of Jarred Vanderbilt, of course, has helped, too. The freshman forward posted his first career double-double (11 points, 15 rebounds) in a career-high 27 minutes against Missouri.

"Jarred coming (in) at mid-season put us in a scramble mode," Calipari said. It seems the coaching staff has figured out how to best employ the 6-foot-9 versatile Vanderbilt, who returned from a foot injury last month. He's part of a lineup with Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Quade Green, Knox and PJ Washington that's played increasing possessions in each of Kentucky's past three wins.

And even this late in the season, Calipari still is holding scrimmages and experimenting with lineups in practice. That's unusual in late February, but so too are four-game losing streaks and players-only meetings.

More Kentucky news: Kentucky basketball player's alleged bodyguard is no longer enrolled in classes

"This team is different," Calipari said. "It's a different team for me. It's taken me a while, and it's not their fault."

With two regular-season games remaining (against Ole Miss and at Florida), Kentucky is a projected No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament (at BracketMatrix.com) and is in a four-way tie for third place in the SEC. That's much better than where the Wildcats were 12 days ago, seemingly out of options and searching for an answer.

"It was really surprising right after that meeting everything went up from there," Knox said. "We're just going to keep going up and keep doing what we're doing to get these wins."

Have Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Breakfast Club 2.0 saved Cats' season

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Feb. 28, 2018

Quietly, back in December, Kentucky freshman Shai Gilgeous-Alexander went to work. He started setting an earlier alarm clock and getting to the Joe Craft Center in time for 7 a.m. basketball workouts followed by film sessions before most of his teammates even got out of bed.

"I just wanted to be the best that I could possibly be for this team," he said, "and I knew to do that I had to put in extra work."

Soon, he'd cracked the Cats' starting lineup. Then he became their best player. And before long, Gilgeous-Alexander, the seventh-highest-rated recruit in UK's 2017 signing class, had gone from likely multi-year college player to a projected first-round NBA draft pick this year.

"I knew he was doing it," coach John Calipari said of the morning workouts, "and as his game kept elevating, that's when I had a meeting with the team and said, 'So who's our best player?' Shai. 'Really? So let's talk about how he got to this point."

Gilgeous-Alexander was not without natural gifts — he's a 6-foot-6 guard with a 7-foot wingspan, after all — but he knew that his lateral quickness and the release of his jump shot needed work. So when no one was looking, he'd gotten about the business of refining his rough edges.

The results are undeniable: In SEC play, he leads Kentucky in average minutes (36), points (14.9), assists (5.1), 3-point percentage (39.1) and free-throw percentage (81.9).

"Once you work out as hard as I do," he said, "you gain confidence in your game."

Until recently, most of Gilgeous-Alexander's teammates were trending the other direction. The Cats started 6-7 in conference play, including a four-game losing streak that cast doubt about whether they'd even get invited to the NCAA Tournament.

"The thing that they did not understand here is if you don't do this together, you're not going to have any fun," said Calipari, who finally brought up Gilgeous-Alexander's solo workouts in a team meeting around the time UK blew a lead at Auburn on Feb. 14. "Just grabbed them and said, 'If you want to know why he's changed and why he's elevated his game, this is why: doesn't miss class, never late for a tutor.' I've never met a player undisciplined off the court that is disciplined on the court. Just doesn't work that way.

"If you're undisciplined, there's a point in the game where you'll just break down, because you're going to do what you feel like doing, not what you're supposed to do."

Humbled by the losing streak, something a team full of former McDonald's All-Americans (Gilgeous-Alexander isn't one) had rarely experienced, other players started showing up in the morning. Point guard Quade Green was first — and coincidentally, he's been on a hot streak since then.

Some teammates who have earlier classes began getting in their own extra workouts late at night.

"The whole point of it was: Are you making time to change what you don't like?" Calipari said. "Or are you making excuses? Or are you being enabled — like, it's always going to be someone else. I told the story: You got a 100-man marching band, they're in unison, it's unbelievable: 99 turn right, your child turns left, and you ask the question, 'What is wrong with those other 99?'

"But I have great kids who come from good homes. They just had to get smacked around a little bit, had to get knocked around, and now they're dealing with it."

Now the Wildcats (20-9, 9-7 SEC) have won three in a row, all by double digits over projected NCAA Tournament teams. They smashed Arkansas in the second half at Bud Walton Arena, where the Razorbacks had lost just once all season. They demolished Missouri, which had nearly run them out of the gym three weeks earlier.

Kentucky, left for dead just 14 days ago, is suddenly surging toward a top-four seed and looking like a team that no one will want to play in March.

Remember Michael Kidd-Gilchrist and the Breakfast Club in 2012? Sometimes a brotherhood begins with one guy willing to do a little bit extra and a team full of guys

willing to follow that lead.

"It's each and every one of us realizing how much we need each other to do what we want to do, just trusting each other, and that's what we weren't doing a couple weeks ago," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "Us losing so many in a row opened our eyes to how much we need each other on and off the court, so we've been hanging out a little bit more, getting to know each other better, and it's helped.

"You go from being almost depressed — sad and disappointed in yourself — to happy and ready for the next challenge."

Together, Quade Green, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander turbocharge Cats offense

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | Feb. 28, 2018

There are many reasons Kentucky basketball has performed a complete 180 in the span of a month, answering a four-game losing streak with four consecutive wins by double digits. Perhaps none is bigger than the emergence of the Wildcats' two-headed point guard.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Quade Green are playing together more than ever — the former as UK's primary point guard, the latter moving into an off-ball role — and both are thriving. During the winning streak, they've shot 50 percent from 3-point range, 89.3 percent from the free-throw line and averaged a combined 27.3 points, 11 assists, 8 rebounds and just 3 turnovers.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who had 17, 10 and 7 in a rout of Ole Miss on Wednesday night, said opponents are forced to "pick their poison" between the two guards. The 6-foot Green is UK's most reliable shooter (he's made multiple 3-pointers in eight of 10 games since Jan. 27) and the 6-6 Gilgeous-Alexander has an uncanny ability to drive and score (or get fouled) almost at will.

If Green's defender leaves him to help stop Gilgeous-Alexander's penetration, "I'm right there to shoot," Green said. "If they know I can shoot, that helps my teammates get to the lane because they try to deny me."

It is a devastating Catch-22 that has turbocharged Kentucky's once-bumbling offense in wins over Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri and Ole Miss. The Wildcats (21-9, 10-7 SEC) have scored more than 80 points in all four games and won by an average of 16.

Of course, none of this works if Green fights the move off the ball. A former McDonald's All-American who started the season as UK's primary point guard — and played well — he has embraced that change and taken a demotion from the starting lineup in stride.

"I like it a lot," Green said Wednesday night after delivering 18 points, 4 assists and 2 steals against the Rebels. "I played off the ball in high school, too, so I'm real used to it, real familiar with it."

Back when Kentucky was slogging through that four-game losing streak, coach John Calipari called a team meeting and laid out in plain terms each player's role moving forward. Green's was most clearly defined.

"Quade, you are going to be away from the ball and you're going to make plays and you're going to make jump shots," Calipari told him. "I don't want you to go driving in on 6-9 guys unless the court is wide open and you have something easy. Short of that, shoot balls."

Green responded by making 21 of 36 shots (58.3 percent) and 8 of 17 3s (47 percent) over the last four games. And because the ball is moving so much better now, others are following suit. Gilgeous-Alexander has hit 4 of 6 3s, the previously slumping Hamidou Diallo has made 5 of 6 from deep, and Wenyen Gabriel went from a 3-for-21 skid to hitting 4 of 9 3s the last three games.

It's not all because Green moved off the ball and Calipari started playing him and Gilgeous-Alexander together more, but that sure helps.

"Me and him have that connection. Before, we didn't," said Green, who has drained a 3-pointer off a drive and kick by Gilgeous-Alexander in each of the last three games. "We were a little bit off. We didn't really click at first, but now we are. I know his spots and he knows where I like it."

There are some Kentucky fans — and media — who've argued Green should be Kentucky's primary point guard. To say nothing of Gilgeous-Alexander's 25 assists in the last three games, Calipari has the simplest of explanations why Green isn't.

"Size," the coach said. "Size. His size. It's a more open court for him [off the ball], he can see more. They have five guys back in there, it's a little tougher for him to see the court … but away from the ball, killer. Absolute killer."

That isn't the only reason for the Wildcats' sudden surge, but it sure is a significant one.

Calipari Hoping Florida Loss a Wake-Up Call

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | March 3, 2018

Kentucky had turned a corner, but John Calipari was quick to warn that the Wildcats may still revert to old form.

Coach Cal, as usual, was right. It's just a good thing it happened before it would have spelled the end of UK's season.

"We reverted," Calipari said. "This is how we played a month ago."

UK was outclassed at Florida on Saturday, failing to duplicate the offensive cohesion and defensive effort that had fueled a four-game winning streak for the Cats. That spelled certain doom, as No. 23/25 UK (21-10, 10-8 Southeastern Conference) fell to Florida (20-11, 11-7 SEC), 80-67.

"It did surprise me a little bit," Shai Gilgeous-Alexander said. "It's just a learning experience that we'll watch film and we'll get better and be better for the next game."

It won't be difficult for the Cats to improve on their first 34 minutes at Florida, which put them in a 23-point hole. UK would recover and even cut the deficit to nine points with less than seven minutes left, but couldn't cut it further.

"First of all, we put ourselves in a deep hole and, second of all, we didn't pass today," Calipari said. "I don't have any idea why we didn't pass the ball to each other. If you have two guys on you…somebody is open. So if you have two guys on you, throw it to somebody. Even if you just get rid of it so that that guy can find an open man."

As one would expect, that started at point guard. Gilgeous-Alexander had a team-leading 17 points to go with four assists in 37 minutes, but also five turnovers in an effort that didn't meet the high standards he's set in a standout freshman season.

"Shai didn't play well today," Calipari said. "And I know you'll say, 'Well, he scored some points,' and all that, but he did not play well today and if he doesn't play well it is tough on the rest of these guys, because they're counting on him to make the right plays and he didn't today. But, look, the kid has had an unbelievable season. This team has had an unbelievable season."

Most unbelievable was the four-game winning streak that came to an end on Saturday. The Cats had won each game, all against SEC opponents, by double digits after losing four in a row to trigger bubble talk.

"What we were up against and losing some games and coming back and

the toughest part of our schedule we go 4-1," Calipari said. "The toughest part of our schedule we go 4-1 at the end of the year and look like we figured it out, but I kept telling everybody you just don't know with young kids. They'll revert in a minute. They'll revert."

Calipari saw early signs of reversion in a midweek win over Ole Miss. The Rebels shot 46.9 percent and scored 78 points, a mere precursor to the 80 points on 49.1-percent shooting the Gators managed.

"I could see we weren't connected to that game and you think you're better than you are and the way you play is you're in a dogfight and you're going to play harder than the other guys," Calipari said. "We didn't do it against Mississippi. We didn't do it today. Now, we got a couple days to get regrouped before we go this weekend to St. Louis and let's see if we can get it right."

Therein lies the good news: that UK still has the opportunity to get back on track. The Cats will await the outcome of Saturday evening's Arkansas-Missouri game to see whether they will play on Thursday or Friday in the SEC Tournament, but Calipari doesn't much care about when his team plays. It's the how that counts.

"This hopefully wakes us up and we go," Calipari said. "But, again, I told them, 'Learn from it. You're young. Competitive spirit. If you don't have a competitive spirit, you will not advance in this game. You're not going to continue to play this game. You either have a competitive spirit and you fight and you go after and you play to win or there's no one that wants you on their team. Because it's not about shooting balls and fade-aways.

"It's a competitive spirit and we're trying to bring it out of some of our guys and get them out of worried about how they're playing and worry how we're playing, but it's a process. It's never-ending and it won't end this year until it ends."

'Dream Come True': Cats Want to Make Most of March

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | March 6, 2018

UK basketball players can seem larger than life. Every once in a while, one of them gives a reminder that it's just a regular person wearing that block Kentucky lettering across his chest.

Kevin Knox delivered such a reminder on Tuesday.

Asked about taking the floor in tournament play for the first time, Knox described an experience familiar to most anyone who grew up in the basketball-crazed Bluegrass State.

"It's a dream come true," Knox said. "I watched it all the time in class. Teachers put it up on the projector and we watched the teams. Now I'm playing in the games. It's really crazy."

Knox of course grew up in Tampa, Florida, but he feels like any good Kentuckian would ahead of the Southeastern Conference Tournament this week and the NCAA Tournament soon to follow.

"I'm really happy," Knox said. "I'm looking really forward to it. I know my parents are really looking forward to it as well. Like I said, it's a dream come true so hopefully we can come out with a win and get far in the tournament like I wish we would."

Deep tournament runs would be a welcome end to a season that Knox says has brought its ups and downs, as he expected it would. But now that March is here, Knox is freshly minted as a First-Team All-SEC performer and the Co-SEC Freshman of the Year and his team is well positioned to advance when it counts.

"We went through that and we had our bad times, we had our good times, but, like I said, I wouldn't trade it for anything else," Knox said. "I wouldn't trade my teammates for anything else. I'm glad I came here. I really loved the season. I think we're in a great spot right now, but definitely we can improve and we will over the next couple weeks."

UK (21-10) will certainly need to be in top form starting Friday, when the fourth-seeded Wildcats will begin their SEC Tournament run in St. Louis against the winner of a game between fifth-seeded Missouri and either Georgia or Vanderbilt. Missouri is among the eight SEC teams currently projected to make the NCAA Tournament by ESPN's Joe Lunardi, meaning this week is likely to be highly competitive.

"From first until however many teams are in the league, there's going to be competition in every game," said Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who joins Knox on the SEC All-Freshman Team and also made Second-Team All-SEC. "Everyone is going to have to bring it."

In other words, the Cats are going to have to play like the team that won four games in a row before Saturday, not the one that had that streak snapped in an 80-67 loss at Florida in the regular-season finale.

"Players weren't really playing their best, but if we get everyone to play their best this team is really hard to beat," Knox said. "We played a lot of games this year, a few games where we just went out and just played all of our best games and everything and we haven't lost yet. From now on, we have to play like that because it's win or go home."

Knox believes the urgency that comes with this time of year will bring the best out of UK.

"I'm pretty sure that the team that won four games in a row will show up for the rest of the year," Knox said. "We just gotta be able to come out, play together, play hard and play like we did when we won four in a row. If we play like that, we'll go pretty far in the tournament."

John Calipari, of course, believes in his team will right the ship as well, but he's not relying on belief alone. He's taking an active role by correcting a mistake he believes he made last week.

"I didn't scrimmage the week before Florida," Calipari said. "Basically, it was a quick turn. Prior to that, we were scrimmaging every chance we could, and I made a decision. Every once in a while my decisions aren't right, few and far between, but there are times they're not right, and this is probably one of them. It took an edge off some guys that we needed to compete and have more of a competitive spirit."

For Knox, conjuring that competitive spirit shouldn't be too tough.

"This is one of the biggest moments of my life, just playing in March Madness, especially at Kentucky," Knox said. "A lot of people like to watch Kentucky play on TV, so it's like a dream come true. Just being able to play in this March Madness is amazing. It's something I dreamed of my whole life."

Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander earn SEC honors, focus on improving

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | March 6, 2018

If you're looking for positive signs as a young, uneven Kentucky basketball team enters an uncertain postseason, start here: As Kevin Knox and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander met with the media Tuesday to talk about their new All-SEC status, both freshmen acknowledged a need (and urgency) to be even better.

"That was probably mostly because of offense," Knox said of his SEC Freshman of the Year award, which he shared with Alabama star Collin Sexton. "But if I can show that I can play defense, I can take my game to another level."

Knox averaged 15.7 points and 5.3 rebounds and scored 20-plus nine times — including three of the final four regular-season games and a 34-point outburst in a win at West Virginia — on his way to first-team

All-SEC and All-Freshman honors. But his defense has fluctuated between serviceable and non-existent.

It was closer to the latter Saturday at Florida, when the Wildcats (21-10, 10-8 SEC) saw their four-game hot streak snuffed out.

"I don't think this has been my best defensive season," Knox admitted Tuesday. "The coaches have really had me watching a lot of film, just making sure that I can get better on the defensive end. That's something I've really got to work on for the rest of this year and my years to come. I've just got to make sure that I give everything I've got on the defensive end.

"The season is not over. I could really improve it, show people I've really been working on it, show people in the tournament — the SEC and NCAA Tournament."

Like Knox, Gilgeous-Alexander spent little time Tuesday talking about his All-Freshman and second-team All-SEC honors, both richly deserved, focusing instead on how he can help Kentucky, the No. 4 seed at the league tournament this week in St. Louis, put all the pieces together before it's too late.

"I'm the point guard, the leader. Guys follow my lead, naturally, and I have to lead them in the right direction or else we'll all look bad," he said. "I didn't do too well that last game and I'll try to fix it for the games coming up."

Gilgeous-Alexander, who wasn't in the starting lineup early this season, averaged 13.2 points, 4.9 assists, 1.6 steals and shot 40 percent from 3-point range. But he also had 5 turnovers at Florida, continuing a trend in which he's averaged nearly twice as many turnovers (3.9 vs. 2.1) in UK's losses as in its wins.

His strength — driving for layups or fouls — is at times a weakness when opponents plan for that and attack it.

"I guess you could say there's kind of a counterpunch: When they take me away, it'll open up my teammates more and I've got to do a better job of finding them," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I only had 4 assists last game, and that has to come up in order for us to be the best we can be."

We've seen what that looks like, not so long ago when the Wildcats were walloping four straight conference opponents by double digits, and both Knox and Gilgeous-Alexander were big pieces of that surge. So it's not a stretch to think Kentucky can get back to playing that way before the NCAA Tournament next week.

Especially when the team's two best players, on a day they could've just taken a bow, talked like young men with plenty to prove.

"I knew we'd have some ups and downs. All freshmen have their bumps in the road," Knox said. "We had our bad times, had our good times, but I wouldn't trade it for nothing else, wouldn't trade my teammates for nobody else. I'm glad I came here. I really love the season.

"I think we're in a great spot right now, but we can still improve and we will the next couple weeks."

Shai, PJ Came to Play: Freshmen Lead UK to Semis

By: Guy Ramsey | UKAthletics | March 9, 2018

John Calipari said before the Southeastern Conference Tournament that it's impossible to know what to expect from freshmen in the postseason.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander didn't waste much time showing he can handle the big stage just fine.

"I felt good," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I was ready to play, first postseason game. When the plays broke down a couple times, I just knew I had to make a play. They were leaving the lanes open and I got to the basket."

With most of his teammates cold in the early going, Gilgeous-Alexander stepped up and allowed Kentucky to grab a lead. When they heated up, fourth-seeded UK (22-10) surged past Georgia (18-15) for a 62-49 win to move into the SEC Tournament semifinals on Saturday at 1 p.m. ET. There, UK will face ninth-seeded Alabama, which upset top seed Auburn on Friday.

"It was a good win," Calipari said. "First game out is always hard, especially when the other team has played."

Gilgeous-Alexander did a little bit of everything for his team, scoring 15 points and adding nine assists, four rebounds and two steals. He came out firing, hitting his first five shots and bringing exactly the kind of tone-setting energy UK needed. He said after the game the way he and the Wildcats played last time out motivated him to do so.

"I think it was due to the fact that I didn't like the way I came out and we came out in our last game against Florida," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I felt like we weren't competing and mentally locked in, and I just wanted to do that today."

Gilgeous-Alexander was primarily a scorer in the first half, but shifted into more of a distributing role in the second. He dished six of his nine assists after the break as UK built a lead as large as 17 points. The normally even-keeled Gilgeous-Alexander was as effusive as he's even been in a Kentucky uniform celebrating his teammates' plays.

"It's just good to know," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "It's a good feeling when we're playing well together. I just have so much fun when my teammates are having fun. It's a family thing and it's fun."

Three of Gilgeous-Alexander's assists led to layups or dunks for PJ Washington, who scored 18 points on Friday – his most since Jan. 23 – and grabbed seven rebounds. Even more impressively, the big performance came opposite Yante Maten.

"I've always played well against guys I feel like that are great players," Washington said. "I just try to come out and prove to myself that I can play with guys like that. I've been doing that since I've been playing basketball, as far as I can remember. I just took this matchup really serious and I'm looking to take the next two really serious and then on in the tournament."

Not only did Washington produce on offense and on the boards, but he also served as the primary defender on the Associated Press SEC Player of the Year. Maten managed just nine points, tying a season low set on Jan. 9 vs. Missouri.

"Our game plan was as soon as he got the ball and took one dribble we tried to trap him and get it out of his hands and get it to somebody else," Washington said. "We just wanted to make someone else beat us and not let him beat us."

Neither Maten nor the Bulldogs were able to beat UK, not even with Jarred Vanderbilt sitting due to an injury sustained in practice this week.

"We've got time, but learning to play without him was a big part of today," Calipari said. "And, again, let me say this: When we lost four in a row, he was playing. Like when we lost four, he was playing. … Now we're not playing with him, and we'll have to see."

Calipari said after the game that he does not expect Vanderbilt to play on Saturday, making UK's success without him all the more important.

"Look, for these guys this is all brand new," Calipari said. "For them to perform like they did in this tournament this first game, come on. I mean, we're out there with all freshmen."

Cats prove tough enough without injured Jarred Vanderbilt

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | March 9, 2018

Kentucky did something significant Friday in an otherwise ho-hum, 62-49 win over Georgia in an SEC Tournament quarterfinal: The Wildcats broke their dependency on Jarred Vanderbilt for energy, rebounding and interior defense.

"We definitely took a big step with that," sophomore forward Wenyen Gabriel said, recounting coach John Calipari's pregame message: "I'm going to need a little bit more from you, you and you — each person — 2 more rebounds here, maybe another block over there."

And that's exactly what Kentucky (22-10) got on its way to winning for the fifth time in sixth games, setting up a semifinal showdown with Collin Sexton and Alabama on Saturday. In the absence of Vanderbilt, one of the nation's top rebounders who was sidelined with an ankle injury, three Cats grabbed 6-plus boards and Kentucky edged Georgia on the glass.

The Cats swarmed Georgia star Yante Maten, the Associated Press SEC Player of the Year, and hounded him into a 2-for-10 shooting day.

"For us to come together collectively, I think we stepped up [Friday]," Gabriel said. "We gotta keep that going."

That's especially important after Calipari said Vanderbilt is still limping around and probably won't play against the Crimson Tide. It's unlikely he'll play at any point this weekend, in fact, and it's unclear whether he'll be available in the NCAA Tournament next week.

So what Gabriel and freshman forwards Kevin Knox and PJ Washington did without Vanderbilt on Friday was no small thing.

"We're trying to figure it out without Jarred," Calipari said. "We've got time, but learning to play without him was a big part of [Friday]. And let me say this: When we lost four in a row, he was playing. Everybody was saying, 'Well, Jarred came back [after sitting out the first 17 games with a foot injury] and screwed the team up,' if you remember. Some of you here probably wrote that. And then we started playing better and now it was, 'OK, [because of] Jarred.' Now we're not playing with him and we'll have to see."

If Friday is any indication of what's to come, the Wildcats will be just fine.

Knox, who could fairly be described as soft for most of the season, got dirty against the Bulldogs: 15 points, 9 rebounds, a nasty block and a gnarly dive across the floor for a loose ball. Washington dominated the paint offensively, hitting 8 of 12 shots for 18 points to go with 7 rebounds, and took the Maten matchup personally.

"I've always played well against guys I feel like are great players," Washington said. "So I just try to come out and prove to myself that I can play with great players. I've just been doing that since I've been playing basketball."

Friday marked Washington's seventh consecutive game with at least 10 points and 5 rebounds — he's averaged 13.6 points and 6.3 boards, shooting 57 percent, during that stretch — but Calipari expressed worry Thursday that his uptick had been tied to Vanderbilt's infectious energy. Washington squashed that theory against Georgia.

He bullied his way to bucket after bucket inside, unaffected by contact, which he attributed to hours of rugged drills with assistant coach Kenny Payne, Kentucky's post whisperer.

"I'm a physical guy," Washington said. "I used to love football when I was younger. I just stopped playing because I got tall, but I like being aggressive on the court."

The Wildcats need that attitude more than ever now that Vanderbilt is gone again, for however long that is, and even when (or if) Vanderbilt returns. They need someone else to accept a personal challenge and catch fire.

"We're running a lot of plays through [Washington]. We trust him to go score and he's confident to go shoot over defenders. He's being real physical, being what we needed," Gabriel said. "He was inspired [by Friday's matchup], and he knew Maten was going to have to bring it to play against him. That's the way PJ looked at the matchup."

In a game Kentucky led by 7 at halftime and by as many as 17 in the second half, a yawner for the most part, that development feels big.

Kevin Knox surprised everyone with his toughness agaisnt UGA - unless that was a disguised Jarred Vanderbilt

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | March 9, 2018

Maybe it was all a ruse and Jarred Vanderbilt was actually healthy and he just wore a Kevin Knox costume on Friday to catch Georgia off guard in the SEC Tournament quarterfinals. That had to be it, because Knox doesn't really do the stuff Vanderbilt does, and then he did against the Bulldogs.

Knox had 15 points (normal), 9 rebounds (abnormal), a nasty block (just his second in the last 17 games) and one crowd-pleasing dive across the floor to retrieve a loose ball (which means it was probably Vanderbilt in a Knox costume).

"It was surprising," fellow forward PJ Washington said, grinning. "Cal just asked us to do more because Jarred was out, so it was great to see Kev hustle for loose balls like that and grab some rebounds. We just need it to carry over for the next couple games. It makes us a lot different."

Knox had as many rebounds in Kentucky's 62-49 win Friday as he'd managed in the three previous games combined. He had five or fewer boards eight times in the previous nine games. He'd grabbed double-digit rebounds just twice all season.

The 6-foot-9 McDonald's All-American has always been a gifted scorer, but he's often been a liability on defense and a non-factor on the glass. He has never been a floor-diver. He was not surprised that his teammates were surprised to see that Friday.

So what the heck got into him?

"I know it's March," Knox said. "It's time to step it up. Jarred plays with really good energy. He went down, so we got guys that need to step up and give energy, get rebounds. If I see a ball on the ground, I'm going to dive on it. It's win or go home now. You gotta put your body on the court and give it all you got."s

Vanderbilt, who averages more than 18 rebounds per 40 minutes, sat out Friday with a left ankle sprain. Coach John Calipari said he doesn't expect the still-limping Vanderbilt to play against Alabama on Saturday in the semifinals either — and probably not at all this weekend.
Unless, of course, that was Vanderbilt in the Knox costume.

"Kevin Knox had 9 rebounds. I said after that everybody in the building was surprised, but he did," Calipari said.
If he can keep that up for however long Vanderbilt is out — and beyond — Kentucky can win the SEC Tournament, and the Wildcats could do damage in the NCAA Tournament.

"He's one of the best players in the country when he does stuff like that,"

Washington said.

Knox knows it, too.

"That's how I'm going to keep playing from now on. It's in me," he said. "That's what Coach likes to see, those plays that show toughness and show fight, that you'll do anything for your team. So I'm going to keep it up. I'm going to do anything for my team. I'm going to put my body on the ground."

Behind the flexing, mean muggin' PJ Washington

By: Joe Mussatto| SEC Country | March 10, 2018

PJ Washington, his nose scrunched and his bottom lip curled up, gave the meanest of mean mugs after throwing down what might have been Kentucky's dunk of the year.

That mean mug, stank face — whatever you want to call it — might as well be trademarked by Washington along with his flex. The two gestures often accompany each other. The face, and then the arms — bowed downward and in front of him, showing off the muscles beneath his sleeves.

"At first I thought about laying it up and then I saw the lane open up a little bit so I tried to dunk it," Washington said plainly. "I should have made the free throw, but it was a good play I guess."

The freshman forward didn't convert the and-one, but it didn't matter. Kentucky didn't the need the extra point in an 86-63 win against Alabama in the SEC Tournament semifinals on Saturday.

The play was overshadowed by Kentucky sophomore Wenyen Gabriel going 7 of 7 from 3-point range, but the first-half dunk was the loudest 2-pointer of the day. Washington said it's "nowhere near" his best ever in-game dunk. He said he once had a two-hand jam over Ben Simmons in high school.

Washington downplayed the dunk, but his teammates did not.

"It was disgusting," point guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander said. "There's no words for that dunk. He's such a good athlete. I think he took off from outside the restricted area. I didn't even expect it, really."

Kentucky forward Sacha Killeya-Jones might have had the best look at it. Killeya-Jones called for a lob on the same play, but Washington handled things by himself.

"I was looking at the rim and I had spaced out a little bit," Killeya-Jones said. "Out of nowhere he just came through one hand up through the lane and and-one. I just went over there — pushed with him, flexed with him."

About those flexes …

"That's his favorite thing to do," Killeya-Jones said. "Any time you look at PJ he just walks around like that. He walks around campus like that — his arms out — he's not even that strong. He just flexes all the time."

"That's what we really wanted him to do all year, and he's been really a beast the last two games," teammate Kevin Knox said.

"That dunk was crazy, mean muggin' like that after every play he makes. That's just PJ."

Gilgeous-Alexander said Washington only flexes for the cameras, hoping for an Instagram picture.

Washington said the flex and mean mug has always been his go-to celebration. It's starting to become contagious. His teammates did their best impressions after the monster slam.

"We all made a face," teammate Quade Green said. "We all made his face."

Killeya-Jones comes up huge in UK's SEC Tourney win over Alabama

By: Darrell Bird | 24/7Sports | March 10, 2018

Sacha Killeya-Jones knows one thing for certain. "Pop Pop" is smiling.

On Jan. 30, Raymond Paul Jones died at age 83. But his memory lives on in his grandson, Killeya-Jones, who enjoyed one of his best games Saturday in helping Kentucky past Alabama 86-63 in the SEC Tournament semifinals at the Scottrade Center.

It was by far Killeya-Jones' best performance since his grandfather died, and certainly the most important since he arrived on campus.

"I tried not to let it affect me as far as basketball goes, except for in a positive way," Killeya-Jones said. "He was always proud of me. As soon as I committed to Kentucky he became the biggest Kentucky fan in the world. He wants to see me do well and watched every game.

"Anybody in Mathews, Va., knows whether he's in the coffee shop or in Walmart, he and my grandma always have the schedule of the games and they are rushing home to watch the game whether I'm playing or not.

"I always have him in the back of mind," Killeya-Jones said. "I try to always compete and be a hard-working dude on the court to honor him."

When his grandfather died, Killeya-Jones was torn as UK was mired in what would become a four-game losing streak. His team was traveling to Texas A&M, the most physical team in the SEC.

"It was a tough decision," Killeya-Jones said. "It wasn't about playing time. I wanted to be there for my team because it was a tough game down at Texas A&M."

Killeya-Jones polled his peers.

"I talked to two coaches and I asked a couple of teammates what I should do before I talked to Cal and they all told me to go, to be there for my family," he said. "They were all supportive. There was no negative about me missing a game.

"I wished I could have been there for the game," he added, "but I had to be there for my family. I not only wanted to be there for my grandfather, but my grandma really appreciated that I was there. It meant a lot to her."

Try as he might, it's understandable that Killeya-Jones was knocked off his game for a time. He was regularly reaching double digit minutes prior to the funeral, but played fewer than 10 minutes in UK's last six regular season games.

"It definitely hurt him," assistant coach Kenny Payne said Saturday. "It took him out of the rotation because he had a death in the family. Then when you've got Jarred playing well, PJ playing well, Wenyen playing well and at times Nick playing well, he has to go find his way and wait his turn."

Compounding the situation was the return of Jarred Vanderbilt, who missed the first 17 games to start the season. He instantly became UK's best rebounder.

"There was a nervousness when Jarred came back," Payne admitted. "Guys were in a rhythm and they were playing. They were like, 'Wow, we know how good Jarred Vanderbilt is. Who's going to be pushed out? He's taking some minutes from somebody.'"

Killeya-Jones bore the brunt if minutes played are an indicator. But Payne said coach John Calipari used quarterback Nick Foles' performance in winning the Super Bowl this year for Philadelphia as a teaching moment.

"Cal has talked to him about the quarterback, how that dude lost his position, had to sit there for a while, but eventually his time comes and he knocks it out of the park. Hopefully, that's what Sacha does after this performance."

On Saturday, ironically with Vanderbilt sidelined for a second game with an ankle injury, Killeya-Jones filled the void. He played 16 minutes, hitting all three shots for six points to go with five rebounds. He also blocked two shots.

"It was a huge stage, it doesn't get any

bigger," Payne said. "We've been begging for rebounding. Without having Jarred out there, who is a major rebounder for us and a tough enforcer, Sacha really stepped up. Hopefully, he understands and continues to fight and get himself mentally prepared like he just did."

"Watching him play, both on defense, offense, rebounding the ball," Calipari said. "He's fighting. He makes us different."

Killeya-Jones tries to honor his late grandfather by being 'a hard-working dude'

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | March 10, 2018

After a timely contribution to Kentucky's victory Saturday, Sacha Killeya-Jones saluted his late grandfather.

"I always have him in the back of my mind," he said. "I just try to compete and just be a hard-working dude on the court to honor him in that way."

Paul Jones, who died on Jan. 30, became a Kentucky fan when Killeya-Jones committed to the Cats, the UK player said.

"As soon as I committed, he was the biggest Kentucky fan in the world," said Killeya-Jones, who then spoke of his grandfather in the present tense. "He wants to see us do well. He wants to see me do well. "Kentucky got a lift from Killeya-Jones, who scored six points, grabbed five rebounds and blocked two shots. While those numbers aren't eye-catching, they seemed significant from a player who had totaled only five points and seven rebounds since Feb. 6.

"I got to tell you, Sacha, who hadn't had the opportunity, has been playing behind some pretty good players," UK Coach John Calipari said. "Now, his chance is there. And I'll tell you, I'm watching him play, both on defense, offense, rebounding the ball. He's fighting. He makes us different."

Killeya-Jones' contributions were timely given how Kentucky played without Jarred Vanderbilt for a second straight game.

Killeya-Jones, who started the second half in place of Nick Richards, played a big part in making sure Alabama would not repeat the epic comeback that beat top-seeded Auburn on Friday.

As a help defender, Killeya-Jones blocked the Tide's first two shots of the second half.

"Any time I'm on the court, I want to help any way I can," he said. "Whether scoring or blocking or even rotating on help side (defense)."

3 Bird: Wenyen Gabriel felt 'free,' let it fly in record day for Kentucky

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | March 10, 2018

When you take 7 3-point shots in a game and make all 7, it could be difficult to pick out which ones were your favorite swishes. Not so with Wenyen Gabriel after Kentucky obliterated Alabama, 86-63, in the SEC Tournament semifinals on Saturday.

"I was definitely more proud of those last two," he said. "They were coming back, making a run, and I had the balls to make those shots."

Indeed, Gabriel rising up to splash corner 3s at the 6- and 5-minute marks — when the Crimson Tide had slashed a 19-point deficit to 11 and then 9 — felt more significant than his first 5 makes from beyond the arc. And so, naturally, Gabriel spread his arms out wide, ducked his head and glided down the sideline like the happiest bird on Earth.

Then he turned to the mostly blue-clad crowd at the Scottrade Center and flapped those wings as an adoring fan base roared for him and teammates playfully pushed him around in a huddle turned mosh pit.

"That moment was great," Gabriel said. "You could feel the energy in the crowd." Because they could feel that they'd just watched something as historic as it was stunning. No UK player has ever made more 3-pointers in a single game without a miss. No SEC player has ever made more in a league tournament game.

Gabriel scored 23 points in 25 minutes on just 8 total shot attempts — and, unofficially, did not touch the rim on any of his 7 3-pointers. Splish, splash, swish, swoosh, woosh, bang, boom. In a hail of bombs, Gabriel buried Bama and its much more established star, Collin Sexton.

"We're a team that, if we make 3s like that, that's what we can do to people," said Kentucky coach John Calipari, who will coach in his eighth SEC title game in nine seasons and try to win a fourth straight on Sunday. "We're not a team that it's what we live and die with, but Wenyen was unbelievable [Saturday]."

On the one hand, almost literally unbelievable. Gabriel seemed a most unlikely candidate to go 7 of 7 from deep Saturday, considering he'd scored in single digits in 12 of the previous 13 games, had not made more than 3 3-pointers in a game this season and had a recent cold spell in which he sank just 6 of 34 3-point attempts.

But on the other hand, "Wenyen's made like 70 3s a couple times," point guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander said. Wait, what? See, Kentucky has a drill in which players try to sink as many 3-pointers as they can in 5 minutes, and Gabriel thinks his personal record is 75. That's an average of 1 make every 4 seconds.

"I knew something like this was going to happen eventually," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "He's been working really hard — before practice, after practice — and I've seen it a couple times in practice where he'll go four times down while we're scrimmaging and make a 3. I expected it sooner or later, and it happened [Saturday], and it was really fun to watch."

Unless, of course, you were Alabama coach Avery Johnson, whose team couldn't even make a comeback when former Wildcats recruit John Petty hit 3 3-pointers and converted a 3-point play in the span of 2 minutes and 19 seconds in the second half Saturday.
"Sometimes you've just got to take your hat off to them," Johnson said. "I don't know if I've ever coached against a guy that's got 7 from the 3-point line on any level."

Gabriel had played a solid game in the quarterfinals on Friday — 6 points, 6 rebounds, made a couple of 3s — but Calipari asked him for more heading into the showdown with Sexton and Co. There was a void to fill again, as freshman forward Jarred Vanderbilt, Kentucky's energy source for most of the conference season, sat out his second straight game with a left ankle injury.

"[Calipari] definitely challenged me," Gabriel said, "and I just stepped up. He told us that's one of the main things: You gotta conquer yourself. And I feel like I did that today."

After a dozen-game drought in which he shot just 17.6 percent from deep, the 6-foot-9 sophomore is officially on fire over the last six games. He's hit 14 of 23 threes (60.9 percent) in that span.

"It feels like you're just at the park back at home, just playing basketball," Gabriel said. "You feel free, like you're letting it fly and no one is on the court with you."

Kentucky has found a new star in Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. The NBA is taking note

By: Ricky O'Donnell | SB Nation | March 11, 2018

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander could have been considered an afterthought when Kentucky initially put together its 2017 recruiting class. The Wildcats had five incoming McDonald's All-Americans, and Hamidou Diallo would have been a sixth if he didn't decide to enroll early.

Gilgeous-Alexander wasn't one of them. Of the eight freshmen John Calipari was bringing in, Gilgeous-Alexander was the seventh highest rated. He was but a four-star recruit, which is almost like wearing a scarlet letter in Lexington.

Forget all of that now. As Kentucky won the SEC tournament title with a 77-72 victory over Tennessee on Sunday, it was Gilgeous-Alexander who carried them there. He scored 29 points and added seven rebounds and three assists, in the process stating his case as the team's best player right here, right now.

Gilgeous-Alexander looks like a star on the brink of the NCAA tournament

Gilgeous-Alexander is a 6'6 point guard who thrives on getting to the basket and leveraging his length to create opportunities for himself and others.

Gilgeous-Alexander is Kentucky's fastest ball handler in the open court. He's a crafty finisher when he gets in close, able to side-step to keep defenders off-balance and finish with either hand.

He's also a quality playmaker who averaged 5.1 assists per game this season. SGA's signature ability in the halfcourt is making something out of nothing and producing looks for open teammates.

SGA started to emerge at the end of December, when he dropped 24 points on Louisville, 21 points on Georgia and 18 points on LSU in three consecutive games. He was great again at the SEC tournament and feels like he's playing his best ball of the year right now.

The NBA is taking notice.

SGA will be a lottery pick when SB Nation releases its new mock draft on Monday.

Shooting is considered the weakness in his game, but he's still hitting 38 percent of his threes this season. He's also an 80 percent free throw shooter, which shows he has good mechanics to work with when it comes to building a shot.

Simply put, Gilgeous-Alexander is so good at so many other aspects of the game that shooting won't hurt his stock much.

John Calipari scrapped bridge-jumping plan, opted into ladder-climbing program

By: Kyle Tucker | SEC Country | March 11, 2018

Back in the middle of February, when the youngest team he's ever coached had lost four straight games, John Calipari said he felt like jumping off a bridge. Good thing he didn't, because on Sunday he watched the reborn Kentucky Wildcats climb a ladder instead and cut down a couple of nets.

"The best thing that happened to my team — not me personally — was the four losses in a row," Calipari said. "They needed that. They needed to be told, 'You're not good enough and you're not going to do this by yourself. You've got to unpack your bags and let's get this together as a team and figure this stuff out.' "

You'll never believe what happened next: Six wins in the last seven games, culminating with a 77-72 thriller over Tennessee, co-champion of the regular season, in the SEC Tournament title game on Sunday. It was the most improbable of Kentucky's four consecutive trophies at this event.

These Wildcats (24-10) went from looking like Calipari's worst team since the 2013 NIT squad to trendy Final Four pick in a blink. There's not a team in the NCAA Tournament that wants to face the hydra that Kentucky looked like this weekend in St. Louis.

SEC Tournament MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who had 29 points and 7 rebounds against the Volunteers, was virtually unguardable for three days. Star Kevin Knox (18 and 7 Sunday) was as assertive as we've seen him all season. Sophomore Wenyen Gabriel blossomed into the "veteran" leader the Cats had been searching for, hitting 9 of 11 threes in the semifinals and title game.

"A month ago, I wasn't sure we'd be in the [NCAA] tournament," Calipari said. "And then I had to ask [UK's deputy athletic director], 'Does everybody get to go to the SEC Tournament? I wasn't even sure we'd get here. But I come to this: We needed to lose those games. We needed to lose four in a row."

Gabriel, who earned a spot on the SEC All-Tournament team with 23 points Saturday and 12 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals and 2 blocks Sunday, went a step further.

"Those four losses in a row really made us," he said. "They shaped our identity." It turned these Cats — seven freshmen, two sophomores and zero upperclassmen — into fighters. That new attitude was on display against Tennessee (25-8), which swept UK in two regular-season meetings and refused to go away in Round 3 on Sunday.

Kentucky led by 17 in the first half, then the Vols roared back with a 25-5 run. The Wildcats answered with a 14-2 burst and UT counterpunched again with a 14-3 run. With 86 seconds remaining, UK's lead was one point — but the kiddie Cats made every right play the rest of the way.

When it was over, and sophomore Sacha Killeya-Jones was cradling the SEC Tournament trophy at his locker, he and his teammates were thankful that Sunday wasn't another blowout. (Five of their previous six wins had come by double digits.)

"It's definitely something we needed," said Killeya-Jones, who delivered consecutive clutch performances off the bench to become yet another positive revelation for Kentucky this weekend.

"The way we won shows we can dig in and hold a lead and withstand another team's run, especially a great team like that. That shows that we're built to make a deep run and really try to go win this thing. I think we can do that."

What else would he say, right? But it's not so far-fetched these days to believe that in what has been a crazy college basketball season, a Calipari-coached team could be clicking just in time to take aim at the program's ninth national championship.

And oh, by the way, the Cats won three games in three days in St. Louis without rebounding machine Jarred Vanderbilt, who could return from an ankle injury to play at some point in the NCAA Tournament. So yes, assistant coach Kenny Payne said, this is one of Calipari's finest coaching jobs yet.

"What we just witnessed was a group of young kids coming together and becoming a team," Payne said. "The maturation of one of the youngest teams in the coun-

try [technically the youngest], a bunch of kids who had a bunch of success in high school, that didn't understand college basketball, the intensity, the work ethic, the fight you gotta have to be a great team and also a great player, the ownership of mistakes.

"You saw us come together. This team is talented, but we're not going to win games off talent. We're winning games of work, off team work, off fighting, off just scrapping to get wins."

Six more of those and Calipari can watch his team climb another ladder at the end of a much bigger tournament.

'It Be's What It Be's': Cats Unfazed by Tough Path

By: Guy Ramsey | UK Athletics | March 11, 2018

Continuing a recent tradition, Selection Sunday was a whirlwind for the Kentucky Wildcats.

P er usual – the fourth year in a row and sixth time in John Calipari's nine seasons – it began with UK triumphing in the Southeastern Conference Tournament championship game. Once the confetti had fallen, the trophies were handed out and nets were cut, the Cats hustled through postgame media obligations and to the airport.

Once back in Lexington, UK made its way to Coach Cal's house to watch was left of the Selection Show, in which yet another difficult path to the Final Four was revealed.

The main difference this time around was a new phrase coined by Calipari in his post-bracket reveal interview.

"It be's what it be's," Calipari said. "Now it's time to regroup, talk to the team."

Coach Cal's team is the No. 5 seed in the South Region, set to face off against 12th-seeded Davidson (21-11) in Boise, Idaho, at 7:10 p.m. ET on CBS in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. The second round would bring a potential matchup with perennial power Arizona, while UK's Sweet 16 opponent would be No. 1 overall seed Virginia, should seeds hold.

"We knew it would be a tough journey," Hamidou Diallo said. "We knew we'd have to play some great teams. Right now, we're just looking forward to playing Davidson and just trying to get us prepared for them as much as possible."

UK's players seemed to have that sentiment in common. Sure, the bracket brings its challenges, but advancing in the NCAA Tournament isn't supposed to be easy.

"First impression was that we got put in a tough bracket," Wenyen Gabriel said. "I looked through the bracket and it's a tough bracket. But then again, it's March. You gotta play a tough game every day and we just have to focus on the game at hand."

Prognosticators and pundits will surely be looking ahead to that possible matchup between preseason top-five teams UK and Arizona, but the Cats already have a healthy level of respect for Davidson. The Wildcats – the ones hailing from North Carolina – won the Atlantic 10 Tournament championship on Sunday to claim their league's automatic bid.

"We got Davidson coming up," Gabriel said. "That's a good team we gotta focus on right there and I'm not trying to look too far down the bracket after we play Davidson. Hopefully we win, then we're going to look on to the next game."

Davidson has won 11 of its last 13 games since starting the season 10-9. Included in that stretch are two wins over Rhode Island and another over St. Bonaventure, both in the NCAA Tournament. Bob McKillop's team is shooting 39.1 percent from 3 on the season and has dynamic scorers in senior forward Peyton Aldridge (21.5 ppg) and freshman guard Kellan Grady (18.0 ppg).

"They run good stuff," Calipari said. "They run a lot of—Tennessee and their coach, Rick Barnes is a good friend, so a lot of stuff Tennessee runs they run. I remember a game early in the year they had 30 3-pointers made, so they're a 3-point shooting team. But I have not watched them. I have not watched tape."

Actually, it was only 26 3s in Davidson's season opener, but the Wildcats have hit 13 or more 3s in 12 games this season. Is it any wonder, then, that this opening-round game has UK's undivided attention.

"We let you guys look ahead and we focus on the task at hand," Gabriel said. "We know obviously from the four-game losing streak that we've been through we can't overlook any team. Any team, they have the ability to beat you. If you don't come in with the type of focus that you need to win the game, you can eventually lose. So we gotta focus on winning the game, each game one game at a time."

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